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SOLDIER

June 1970 Volume 26, No. 6

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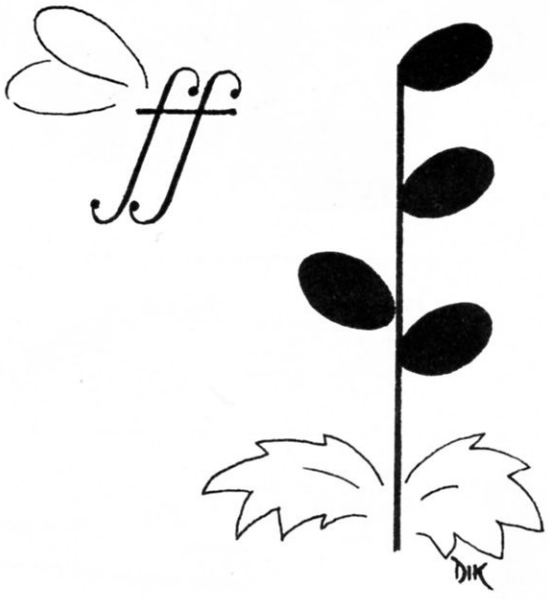

DIK takes a note

(page 41)

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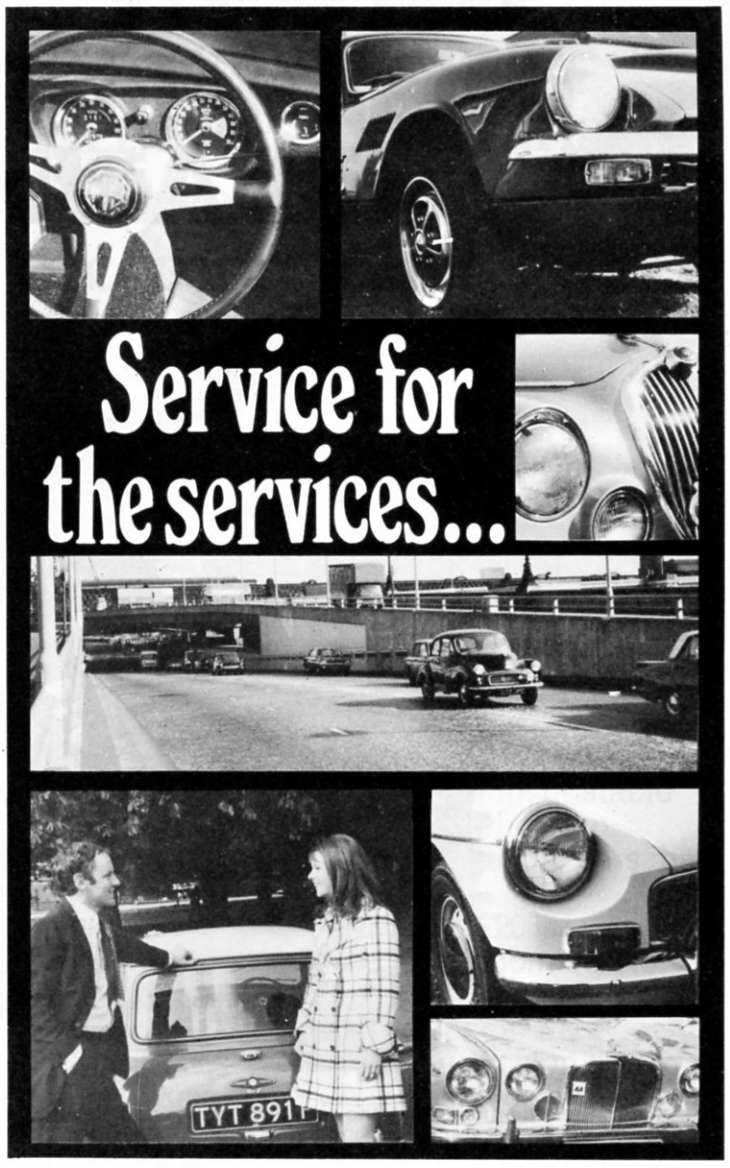

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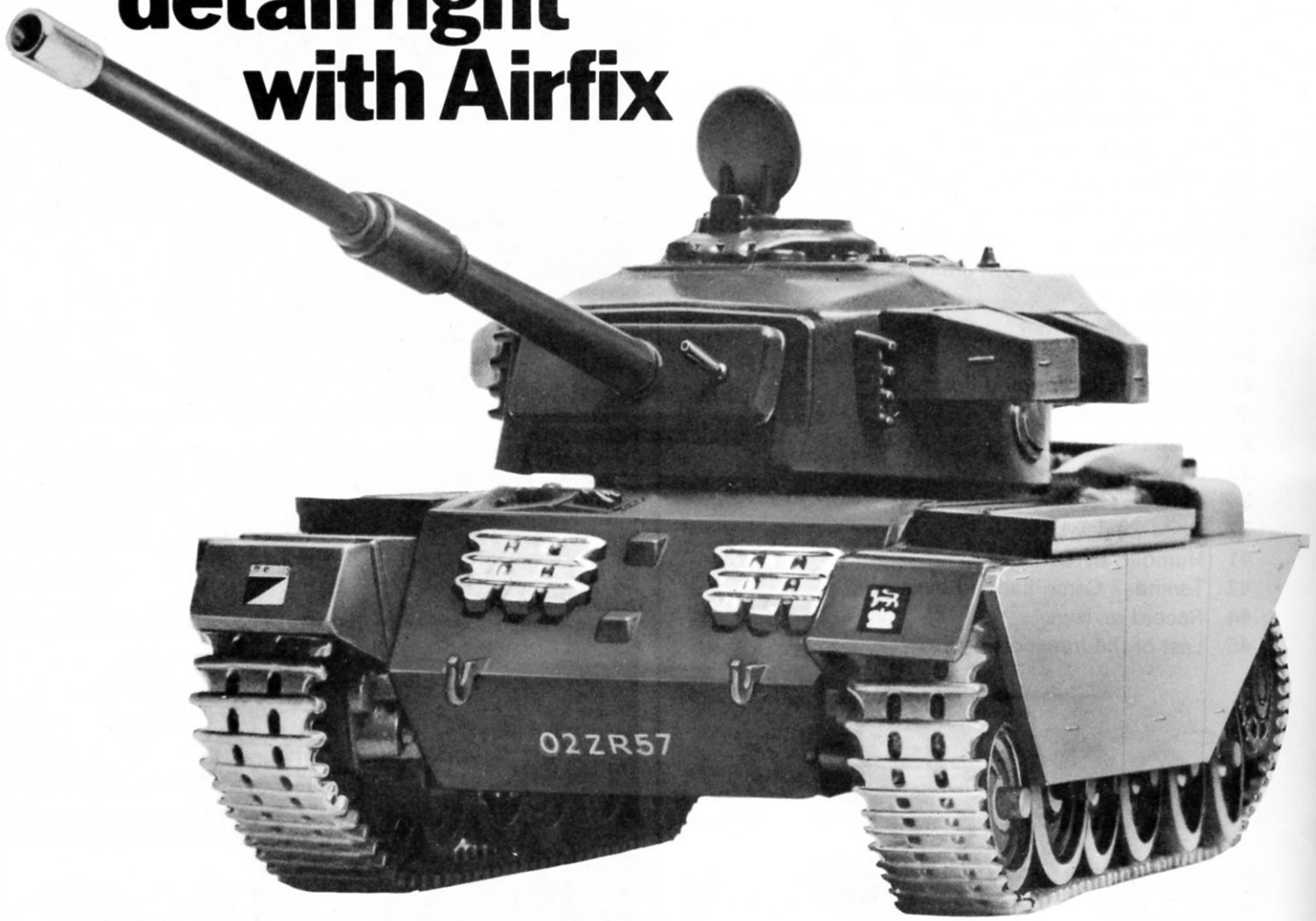

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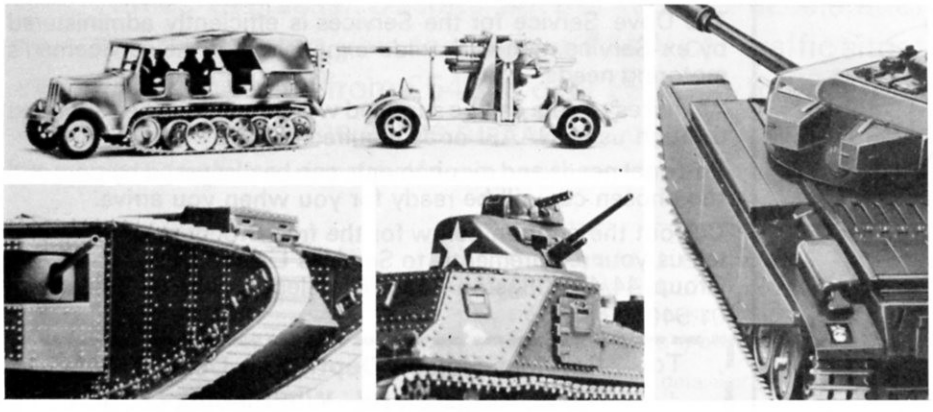
Bottom left: World War I tank Bottom Centre: Lee/Grant tank Top left: 88mm Gun Right: Centurion



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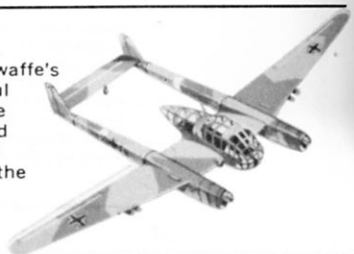

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See-the-Army

DIARY

In this regular feature SOLDIER keeps you up-to-date on tattoos, open days, exhibitions, at homes, Army displays and similar occasions on which the public is welcome to see the Army's men and equipment.

Amendments and additions to previous lists are indicated in bold type.

JUNE 1970

10 Newton Abbot trades fair (band, tentpegging, motorcycle team) (10-11 June).
11 Army recruiting display, Ayr (band, pipes, and drums, motorcycle team, arena display) (11-13 June).
12 Coventry Army display (band, corps of drums, Red Devils, Blue Eagles, physical training, motorcycle team) (12-13 June).
13 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
13 Alexandra Park donkey derby (infantry display).
13 7th international festival of music, Tournai, Belgium (band and pipe band) (13-14 June).
13 Massed bands beat Retreat, Catterick.
13 School of Infantry open day, Warminster.
13 Porchester carnival (2 bands, Red Devils).
13 Mayflower 70, Plymouth, Combined Services' Queen's birthday parade.
13 1st Battalion, The Royal Hampshire Regiment, troops its Colours for last time in Winchester.
18 Queen's birthday parade, HQ SHAPE, Belgium.
19 Bexley tattoo (19-21 June).
20 Wembley hospital fête (engineer display, infantry stand).
20 Royal Signals 50th anniversary exhibition, Schools of Signals, Blandford.
20 Aldershot Army display (20-21 June).
20 Newham show, East Ham (band, arena display).
21 Royal Signals 50th anniversary cathedral service and march past, Salisbury (am); open day and pageant, School of Signals, Blandford (pm).
23 Mayflower 70, Plymouth tattoo, Royal Citadel (23-27 June).
23 Suffolk tattoo, Ipswich (23-27 June).
27 Open day, Central Vehicle Depot RAOC, Ashchurch, Tewkesbury, Glos.
27 Massed bands display, Minden, Germany (7 bands) (or on 4 July).
27 Army recruiting display, Cardiff (band, corps of drums, Red Devils, Blue Eagles, motorcycle team) (27-28 June).
27 Military musical pageant, Wembley Stadium (for Army Benevolent Fund).
27 39 Engineer Regiment (Airfields) open day, Waterbeach.
27 Chingford Scouts (3 bands).
27 North Wilts Army Cadet Force tattoo, Swindon.
27 Installation, Governor of Edinburgh Castle (Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Leask), Castle Esplanade, Edinburgh.
28 At home, Royal Signals, Catterick.

JULY 1970

3 2nd Division massed bands display, Germany (3-4 July).
4 Army recruiting display, Troon (Red Devils) (4-5 July).
4 Massed bands display, Minden, Germany (if not 27 June).
4 Swansea Army display (band, corps of drums, motorcycle team, infantry display) (4-5 July).
4 School of Artillery open day, Manorbier.
10 Southampton show (band) (10-11 July).
11 Finchley carnival (tank regiment driving display).
11 Nottingham military display (6 bands, Red Devils, gymnastic display, guard dog demonstration, motorcycle team, Blue Eagles, cliff climbing, RAF display) (11-14 July).
11 Woking carnival (band).
11 Basingstoke military tattoo.

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11 Cadet fête, Frimley (band, 2 displays).
15 Royal Tournament, Earls Court (15-31 July).
16 Commonwealth Games, Edinburgh (bands, pipes and drums) (16-25 July).
16 Liverpool Army display (band, pipes and drums, Red Devils (?), tent-pegging, infantry display, Blue Eagles) (16-18 July).
18 Claygate show (band).
18 Stroud show (band).
18 Artillery day, Larkhill (and 50th anniversary, School of Artillery, Larkhill).
20 Son et lumière, Canterbury (massed bands) (20-25 July).
22 Gosport tattoo.
23 Royal Engineers musical extravaganza, Hawley Lake, Farnborough, Hants, 9.30 pm.
23 Dover tattoo (23-25 July).
25 Gloucester carnival (band).
25 Birmingham Army display (band, corps of drums, Red Devils, Blue Eagles, physical training display, motorcycle team) (25-26 July).
31 Queen's Division open day, Bassingbourn (7 bands).
31 Medway teams display, Chatham (3 bands) (31 July-1 August).
31 Cheltenham **searchlight tattoo (31 July-1 August).**

Late July: NATO music festival, Mönchen-Gladbach, Germany (4 bands).

AUGUST 1970

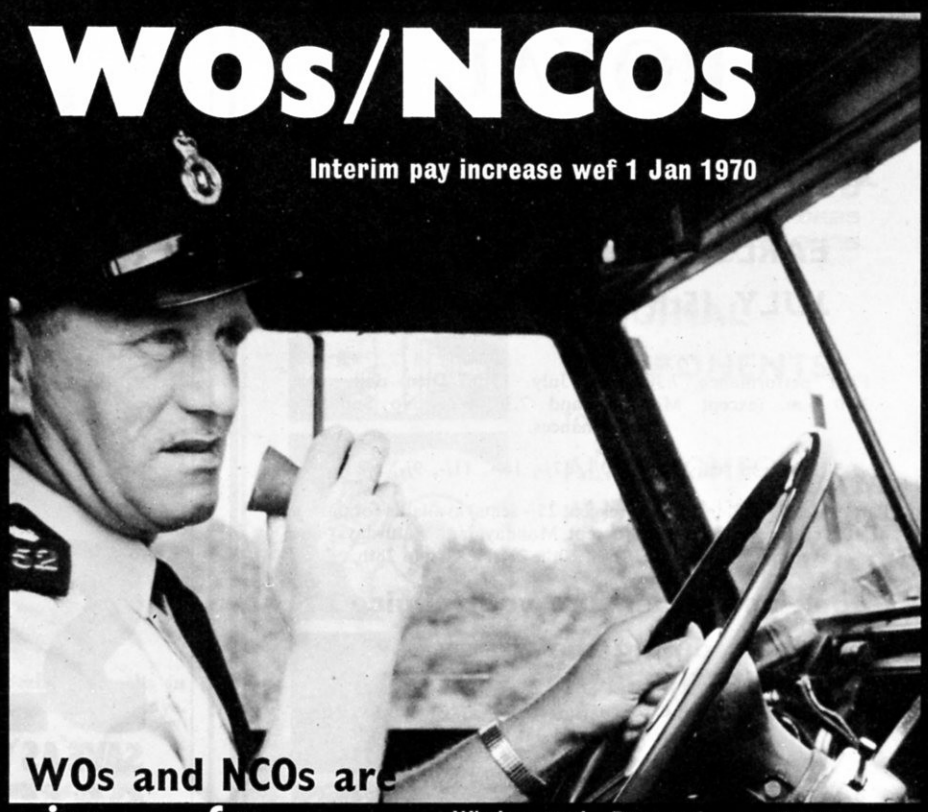
1 Open day, Royal School of Military Engineering, Chatham, Kent.
1 Presentation new Colours to 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, Berlin (Minden Day).
2 Open Day, RAC Centre, Bovington Camp, Dorset.
4 Tyneside summer exhibition (band) Exhibition Park, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (4-8 August).
5 Colchester tattoo (5-8 August).
8 Darlington Army week (8-16 August).
8 Dalbeattie town carnival (motorcycle team).
8 Open day, Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Engineers, Dover.
15 Friern Barnet show (infantry stand, parachute tower).
16 Royal Army Veterinary Corps open day, Melton Mowbray.
21 Burnley Army display (Blue Eagles, Red Devils, motorcycle team, band) (21-23 August).
21 Edinburgh tattoo (21 August-12 September).
22 Rochdale Army display (Blue Eagles, Red Devils, motorcycle team, pipes and drums, band) (22-23 August).
26 Hayling Island carnival (motorcycle team).
28 Leeds gala and Army week (2 bands) (28 August-1 September).
29 Farnham Town show (band) (29-30 August).
29 Newport Pagnell carnival (motorcycle team).
31 Aylesham show (band, tentpegging).
31 Edenbridge show (band).
31 Henley-in-Arden carnival (motorcycle team).

SEPTEMBER 1970

Early September: Massed bands display, Dortmund.
2 Sheffield show (band) (2-5 September).
2 Keighley Army week (band) (2-6 September).
5 Amalgamation at Portsmouth of The Gloucestershire Regiment and The Royal Hampshire Regiment.
5 Liberation of Antwerp (band) (5-6 September).
5 Guildford show (3 bands, tentpegging) (5-6 September).
11 36 Heavy Air Defence Regiment open days, Shoeburyness (11-12 September).

WOs/NCOs

Interim pay increase wef 1 Jan 1970



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Inspection of the quarterguard at the 1st Battalion's Berlin barracks in 1969. Cruachan, now a mature 20, is well behaved on parade these days.

On his high horse

CRUACHAN II, the shetland pony mascot of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, has firmly established himself as the most important personage on parade.

At very least, this is a prerogative of pedigree. Cruachan II, full name Cruachan of Braes of Greenock, was sired by Bergastor of Transy out of Pamina of Transy. And his grandsire, Senyad of Transy, was champion of both the Royal English and Highland agricultural shows.

Cruachin, escorted by a soldier "Pony-major" holding his reins, always has pride of place at the head of the band. Any presumptuous piper or over-confident officer who has the temerity to march in front gets a warning whinny and sharp bite. There have been not a few torn trousers and tattered tartans to tell the tale.

Cruachan stands a diminutive 9½ hands high but he marches with something of a swagger and a proud toss of his mane to the skirl of the pipes. True, on one of his earlier Edinburgh tattoos he got on his high horse during the counter-marching and had to be wheeled off. But it is different now that he has another half dozen tattoos and 18 years' service under his crupper.

It was in 1952 in Edinburgh that he was presented by Mrs Roger Hyde, of Callander, to the 1st Battalion on its return from Hong Kong. At present he is with the battalion in Berlin.

When travelling he has his own personal horse box with his name painted on it, and a movement order and travel warrant have to be completed for him just like a human soldier. Feeding is not much of a problem because he grazes on grass throughout the year and needs hay only during prolonged periods of snow. He has uniform too, for ceremonial parades. It consists of a shabrack of green with a yellow border—the regimental colours—with the regimental badge and cipher embroidered in gold and silver thread on either side and a bridle picked out in green and yellow. He inherited this from his predecessor Cruachan I.

The first Cruachan had an even more aristocratic background. He was presented to the regiment in 1929 by its colonel-in-chief, the late Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll. "Cruachan" is the old war cry of the Campbell clan and is an apt name because the regiment was raised by a Campbell.

Cruachan I, however, was rather uncouth. He would escape from his stable and career around camp with the highlanders in pursuit, once kicked the drum-major of The Gordon Highlanders on a joint parade with the Argylls, and did tricks such as rearing up on his hind legs and standing up on an upturned bucket to "give a hoof" if promised sugar. He served continuously with the regiment until it was called to Palestine in 1939. He was then put out to grass in Oxford where three years later, at the age of 20, he peacefully died.

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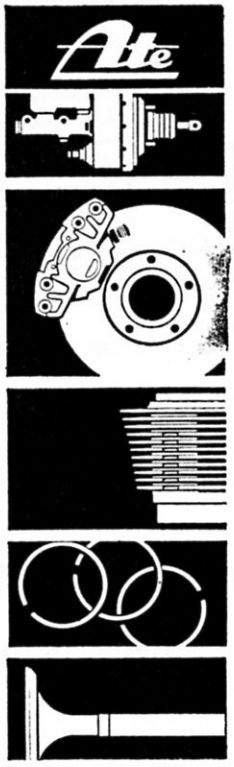

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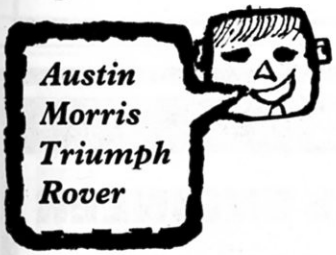

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SOLDIER to soldier

The military musical pageant which was to have been held at Wembley Stadium on 27 June will not now take place. It has been postponed until 1971.

This year's pageant has had to be cancelled because of the state of the arena at the stadium. The pitch is being reconstructed and experts have advised that it should be kept absolutely free from use during the summer months.

The pageant would have benefited the Army Benevolent Fund by many thousands of pounds but the fund's officials have agreed, in the wide interest of sport, that it should not be held this year despite the serious loss of income to the fund and the acute disappointment which will be felt by the many thousands who have already bought tickets and the thousands more who would have done so.

Careful consideration was given to changes of date or venue but no feasible alternative could be found. The bands—there were to have been more than a thousand musicians in the pageant—have heavy summer commitments and none of the alternative sites in and around London which were visited proved suitable and available.

Refunds are being made to all those who have bought tickets for the 1970 event and the expenses incurred by the Army Benevolent Fund are being met by Wembley Stadium.

The date of the 1971 pageant, which will be held at Wembley Stadium, is dependent upon the availability of bands and will be announced as soon as a decision has been made.

★

A North Sea Ferries advertisement in the March SOLDIER (page 11) offered an "8-day excursion return £10 5s 0d without your car." This offer in fact is not currently being made by North Sea Ferries. It was included in error on the advertising "copy" sent to SOLDIER by North Sea Ferries' advertising agency.

★

A Scottish whisky firm uses as one of its advertising themes an association with a particular day of the week—"on Tuesday drink only————'s whisky." This prompted an Army public relations officer north of the Wall to suggest to The Scottish Division that here was an idea its recruiting organisation might adapt.

Back, promptly, came this recruiting calendar for the days of the week:

Bunday	Army Catering Corps
Gunday	Royal Artillery
Bluesday	Household Cavalry
Hensday	Women's Royal Army Corps
Spursday	Cavalry other than Household
Pryday	Royal Military Police (Special Investigation Branch)
Chatterday	Royal Signals (radio operators)

"Ayo Gurkhali!"

FRONT COVER

Silently, slowly through ankle-deep mud the Gurkha glides through the jungle. Silence is essential but difficult, movement necessarily slow. The enemy can stay motionless in ambush for hours. The jungle patrol may search for days without contact then suddenly meet a hail of bullets. The wiry, agile Gurkha, hillman but astute and wary, soon learned to outmatch terrorists and infiltrators in the jungles of Malaya and Borneo.
Picture by Arthur Blundell

Above: Engaging the enemy at Mozzagrogna, Italy. Rifleman Okel Gurung (left) was promoted naik and gained the IOM and MM before being killed in the final battle of the campaign. Right: The capture of Spingawai Kotel, 2 December 1878.

Story by George Hogan

Left: With bloodcurdling screams and bared *kukris*, the Gurkhas leap into action. It was a sight that terrified all enemies. Below: Two Gurkhas at Benghazi. They had been in hiding till the British came.

Left: Into the attack! 1/6 Gurkhas Rifles train at Kota Belud, Borneo. Below: Sergeant of Gurkha Independent Parachute Company with red beret.

KATHMANDU, Gurkha, *kukri*—three words that will live for ever in the English language. Indeed, Gurkha is the English spelling of Gorkha, the small town in Nepal from which this most brave, tenacious and faithful of soldiers gets his name.

Kathmandu, capital of the independent kingdom of Nepal, is 4500 feet above sea level and surrounded by mountains. Nepal, under the shadow of the mighty snow-tipped Himalayas, comprises 54,000 square miles of mountainous country with no roads outside the capital and only rough winding paths up the steep hillsides.

In the rainy season streams turn to torrents and can be crossed only over roughly made bridges which swing hazardously across the ravines.

A land hard to live in, difficult to move in, almost impossible to conquer—but the British subdued Nepal in 1815 after Gurkha attacks on British frontier police posts in India. This short, brave, vigorous encounter taught each side such respect and admiration for the other that four battalions of Gurkhas were formed to serve with the Honourable East India Company's forces.

Hostilities broke out again the following year and another strenuous campaign was fought. Strangely it increased the admiration each of the two races held for the fighting qualities of the other and 155 years of close association were forged at that time. One of those first four battalions is still serving Britain—the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Goorkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles).

The *kukri*, with a curved blade 18 to 20 inches long, is the deadly hand weapon of the Gurkha. It is not true that it must draw blood each time it is unsheathed. It has a thousand uses from chopping wood to slaughtering animals and hacking a way through dense jungle. It is carried by all Nepalese hillmen with two miniature knives for sharpening and skinning.

The battle cry of old Gorkha, "*Ayo Gurkhali!*" ("the Gurkhas are coming!") has resounded across battlefields in many parts of the world during the past 155 years.

At Delhi in 1857 the Gurkhas showed their loyalty in action after Indian troops had mutinied. Under Roberts they fought the Afghans on the road to Kabul and long defended the North-West Frontier of India.

In France, Mesopotamia and Gallipoli in World War One, the stocky little hillmen from Nepal fought with tenacity and professional enthusiasm, always ready to thrust forward daringly and sometimes too far, never admitting defeat but striving continuously against all manner of odds, time and physical possibilities.

At Gallipoli one battalion battled for three nights and two days with *kukris*, rocks and fists until they saw the Turks streaming in retreat below the ridge they had so courageously captured from them. It was a tragedy that a supporting brigade lost its way and failed to arrive and that British naval guns shelled their position. The Turks quickly realised the appalling error, rallied, returned and the Dardanelles campaign was lost.

In World War Two at the second siege of Tobruk and on the long road from Alamein to Tunis, the Gurkhas fought heroically. Their story in Italy is well told by the historian of the 2nd Goorkha Rifles recounting the action at Cassino:

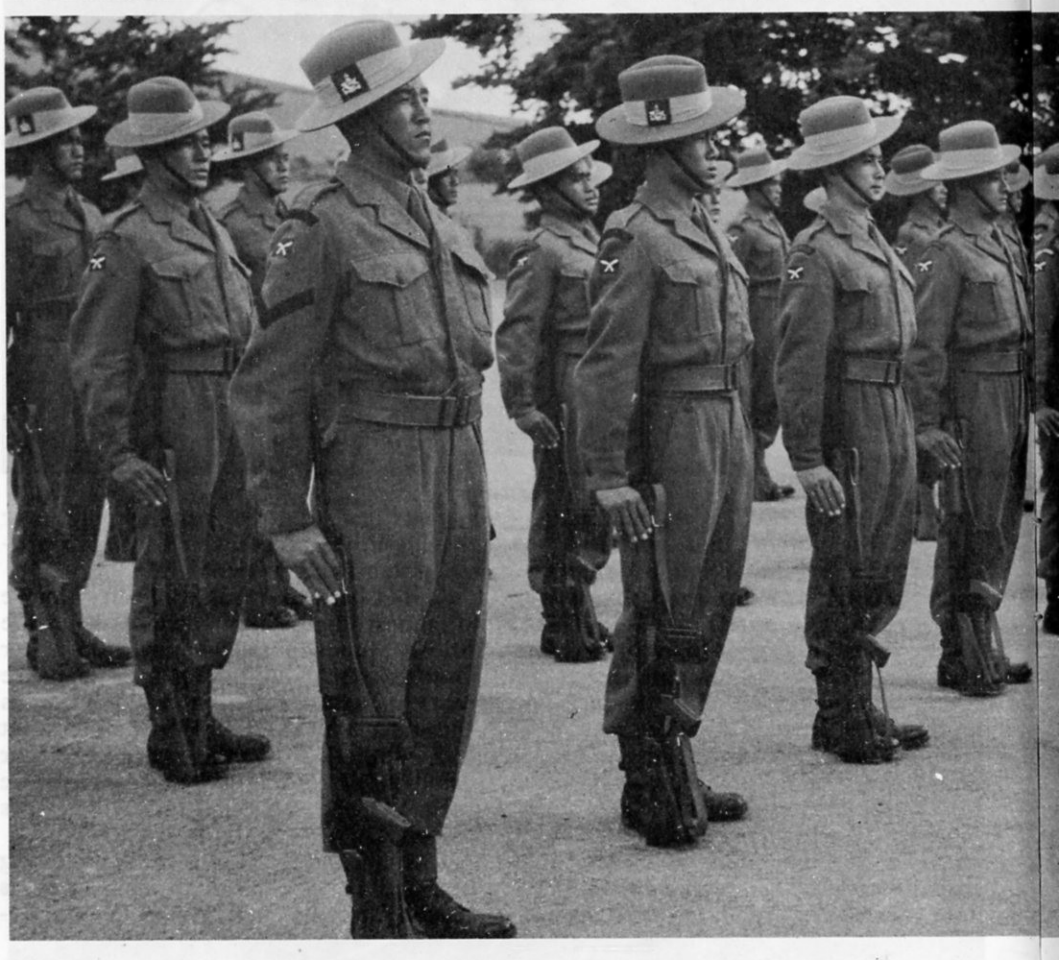
"Subedar Pirthilal Pun with four survivors of his platoon carried the battle to the enemy for five hours in spite of desperate wounds. Jemadar Balbahadur Gurung, with his clothing ripped to rags by bullets and splinters, charged one machine-gun nest after another. Naik Birbahadur Gurung, with one hand shot away and a second wound in his thigh, leapt on an enemy post and lived to tell the tale. Lance-Naik Dhansing Thapa, twice struck down, followed in under the blast of his own grenades to slay and turn a captured Spandau against his enemies.

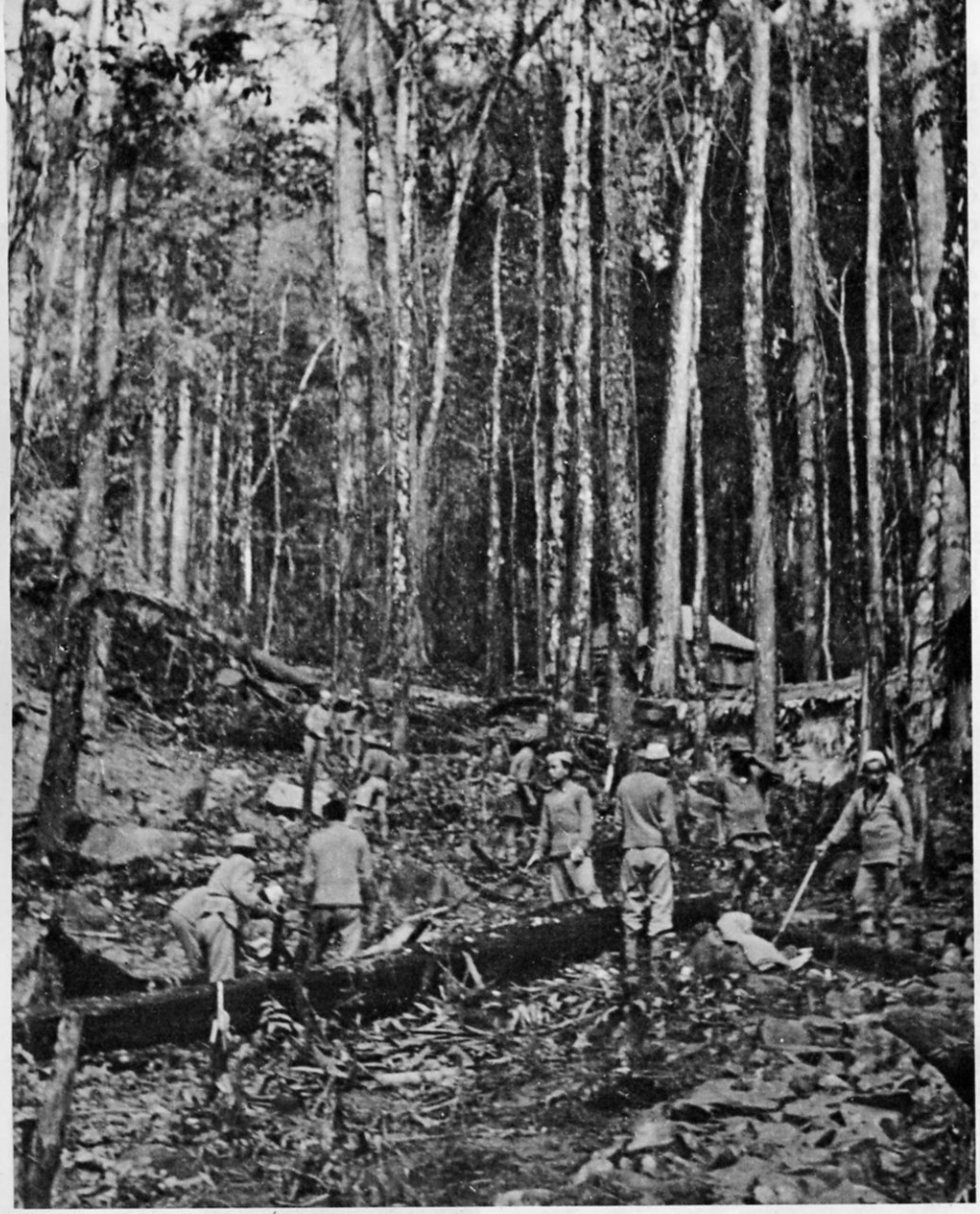
"Rifleman Til Ale, with an eye blown out and multiple wounds, burst through the thicket and fell upon paratroops at close quarters. Naik Jabarsing Thapa, with a shattered left arm, carried the fight to the enemy for six hours until ordered back by his platoon commander. Stretcher-bearer Sherbahadur Thapa crossed the deadly mined ground 16 times to bring out wounded."

Bravery, tenacity, dedication and loyalty —and there was always humour too.

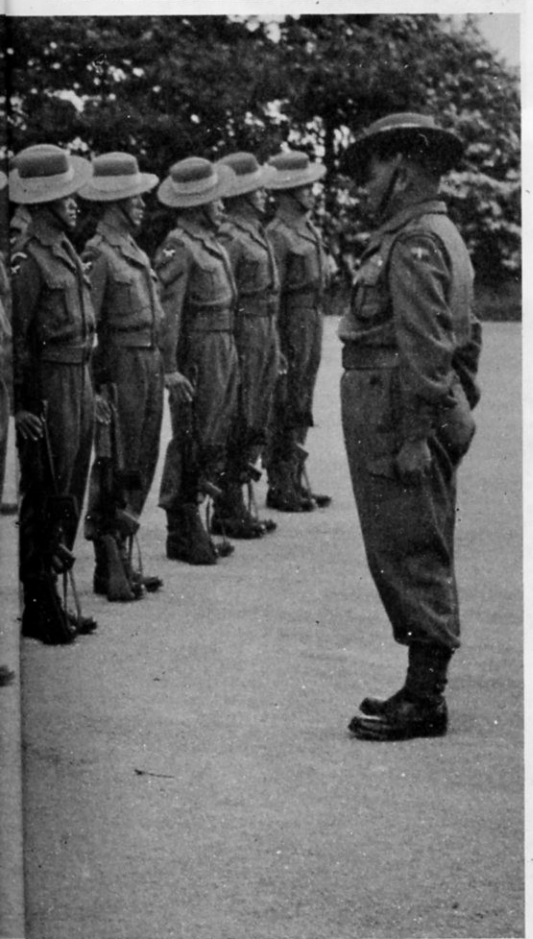
Also in World War Two the Gurkhas saw action in Burma. Basha Hill, Abel, Imphal, Kohima, Mogaung and Mandalay are among names etched in their regimental records. One battalion, part of Wingate's special force which landed in gliders behind the Japanese lines, suffered 485 casualties in bitter fighting in three months.

There had been ten Gurkha regiments in the Indian Army administered by Britain. When partition came on 1 January 1948 four of these, of two battalions each, became an integral part of the British Army. They are the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Goorkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles), 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own





Left: Hewing a path for a pipeline from India to Burma in November 1944. Above: At work on the Burma Road in 1943. Below: Victorious entry into key road and rail junction of Pegu, 50 miles north of Rangoon—Fourteenth Army, 1945.



Far left above: At the Gurkha Training Depot. Left: The arrival of a contingent at Heytesbury, Wiltshire, in 1960. Inspection by Capt P Gurung.

Right: Rifleman (later RSM) Tulbahadur Pun, 6 Gurkha Rifles, who won the Victoria Cross at Mogaung railway bridge, Burma, 23 June 1944.

Below: Pipe-Major Sanbahadur at rehearsal for a Gurkha display at the Aldershot Horse Show.

Gurkha Rifles and 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles.

Also in the Brigade of Gurkhas are the Gurkha Independent Parachute Company, 5 Gurkha Dog Company, Gurkha Engineers, Gurkha Signals and Gurkha Transport Regiment.

It was 1948 but there was still no respite from active service. Chinese communists opened a campaign of violence in Malaya that year and the operations against them involved large numbers of the British Army for the next ten years, the Gurkhas taking a major share of the tasks.

There were exhausting jungle treks that sometimes lasted for weeks, difficult ambushes and gruelling search and strike operations and patrols.

Then came Brunei in 1962 where Gurkhas captured the leader of the revolt, Yasin Effendi, in a swamp. The Malaysian confrontation with Indonesia followed and this gruelling jungle campaign lasted until 1966 and involved many British regiments. The Gurkhas again played a major role.

Over the past century and a half the Gurkhas of Nepal have served the British Crown loyally and fully. More than 200,000 enlisted in World War One and 175,000 in World War Two. They suffered about 45,000 casualties and another 600 in the "peace-time" operations in Malaya and Borneo.

Gurkhas have been awarded 26 Victoria Crosses and one George Cross, the most recent VC being won by Lance-Corporal Rambahadur Limbu, for bravery in Borneo in 1965.

Since World War Two the Brigade has served in the Far East except for a short while when a battalion was stationed with its families at Tidworth on Salisbury Plain. Now the main duty is at Hong Kong and the rundown from 15,000 in 1967 to 6000 by the end of 1971 is reducing each regiment to one battalion and the engineers, signals and transport regiment to two squadrons each.

The reduction of 9000 will drastically increase the 16,000 ex-Servicemen of the brigade and 64,000 dependants (including widows and orphans) in Nepal. Nevertheless, the dedication and loyalty of the Gurkha to the British Crown is such that all are determined to maintain their high standards to the end to ensure that units are ready at all times to operate efficiently and immediately in any emergency.

Let the words of Professor Sir Ralph Turner, who served with the Gurkhas in World War One, resound as a reminder of Britain's debt to men who asked no more than to serve fully and energetically:

"Bravest of the brave, most generous of the generous, never had a country more faithful friends than you."

Above: A billowing parachute could drag him along the ground. Here he is learning how to collapse it in a breeze. It is a trick soon learned.

Above right: Few see a *kukri* at close quarters. But Private Krishna Rai of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps is a Nepalese girl.

Right: Typical Gurkha homestead in Nepal.

Above: Field-Marshal Lord Harding presents a testimonial for devoted service to midwife of 1st/6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles.

Above, left: Patrolling a treacherous mangrove swamp in Brunei. Above, right: Gurkha and his bride.

They need your help

As announced in SOLDIER to Soldier of the April issue, a national public appeal has been launched this month to raise a million pounds to alleviate hardship among former British Gurkha soldiers.

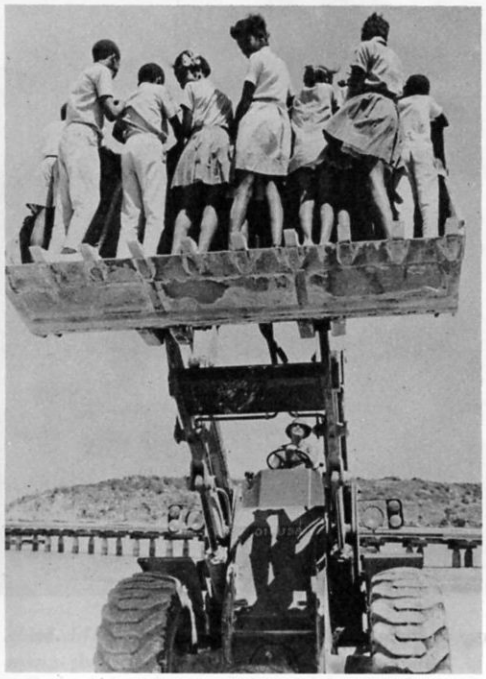
The Brigade of Gurkhas welfare organisation is trying to help some 500,000 people for most of whom the only way of life is subsistence farming. It aims to alleviate hardship and distress and to provide a limited medical service to all British Gurkha ex-Servicemen and their families. It is administered by a senior serving British officer employed exclusively on welfare work, assisted by 23 area welfare officers and 92 medical pack holders all of whom are retired Gurkha officers or non-commissioned officers.

The British Government pays the welfare officers' and medical pack holders' salaries; nothing is lost on administrative overheads. The Army Benevolent Fund and British Commonwealth Ex-Services League have given and continue to give most generous assistance, the British Legion and British Red Cross Society have also helped, but all these agencies have many other calls on their funds.

The million pounds is needed to ensure that whatever may happen the Brigade of Gurkhas welfare organisation can help all British Gurkhas and their dependants who may be in distress. The Brigade itself has contributed £250,000 and £150,000 has been raised by personal approaches to industry and commerce.

Everyone who has served with Gurkhas has the highest admiration for these immensely likeable and tough soldiers. Will you help them? Send your donation, however small, to Editor, SOLDIER, 433 Holloway Road, London N7, or direct to the Gurkha Welfare Appeal, 25/31 Moorgate, London EC2.

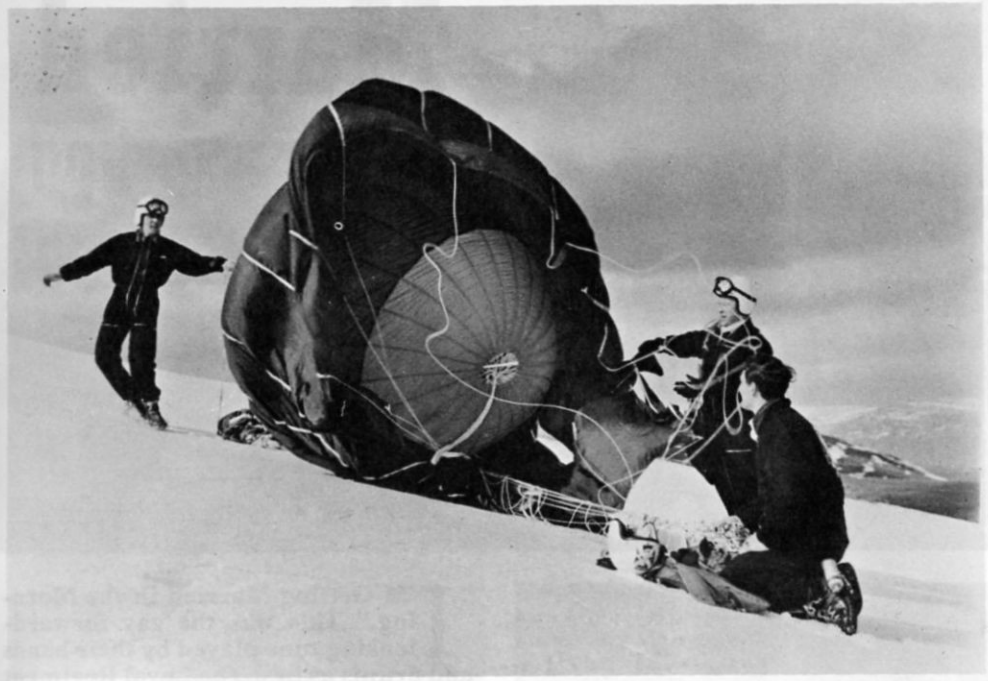
Bulling up badges with "Brasso" has nothing on this. Hundreds of men of 30 Signal Regiment have been spending five days cleaning up the Fovant badges (right). These badges—cut into the downs at Fovant by regiments stationed nearby in World War One—have again become overgrown with weeds and turf. The handful of members of the Fovant Home Guard Old Comrades Association, who have been looking after the badges, have found their work increasingly difficult. The Army offered to help last year following a request from the mayors of Salisbury and Wilton. Now it has become an annual task.



Left, Right & Centre

A primary school to accommodate 500 pupils, five miles of resurfaced roadway and a 250-yard-long jetty to take ocean-going vessels—these are three of the projects completed by sappers on the Caribbean island of Anguilla. It was in March last year that a force of soldiers and policemen moved in to cool down the heated situation when the island sought to secede from the federation of St Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla. Life is now more or less back to normal but detachments of British police and sappers have remained to maintain law and order and improve local amenities. "They thought we were the greatest thing since sliced bread when we arrived on our Mexeflote and relations have stayed very good" (above), said an officer of 33 Field Squadron. The squadron, with supporting elements of Royal Signals, Royal Corps of Transport, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and Army Catering Corps, has played frequent friendly football and cricket matches against local teams. One sapper devoted his spare time to help run the local scout group. The squadron was replaced in March by 48 Field Squadron from Ripon with the task of improving the water supply system and continuing the road surfacing. The island, which is about 15 miles long, has some 35 miles of roadway which was almost entirely unmetalled.

Pageantry, pomp and panache. It was the annual review of the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, in Windsor Great Park. After inspection (above) by Major-General The Hon Michael Fitzalan Howard, General Officer Commanding London District and Major-General Commanding Household Brigade, the troop rode past at the trot and gallop.



A freefall parachute drop on to the top of the snowcapped Cairn Gorm (4084 feet) has earned the United Kingdom high-altitude-landing record for three Scottish soldiers. The trio, members of The Scottish Division's freefall team, "The Golden Lions," were Corporal Bill MacLennan and Lance-Corporal Ronnie Scott of 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, and Corporal Bob Bennett of 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers. The three jumped from their aircraft at 10,000 feet and fell for 4000 feet before opening their parachutes. Skiers stopped to watch as coloured smoke from canisters attached to their boots marked the paras' dramatic sky dive. Winds gusting up to 50 knots swept across the mountain just as they landed and it was almost impossible for them to stand upright (left). Commented Corporal MacLennan: "The jump was easy but getting down off the mountain was a terror." Their flat-soled jumping boots gave no grip on the icy surface. But after several tumbles they solved the problem by "glissading" down the mountain side in their parachute harnesses using their heels for braking. Just 2000 feet from the summit they were greeted by newspapermen and frothing pints of beer.

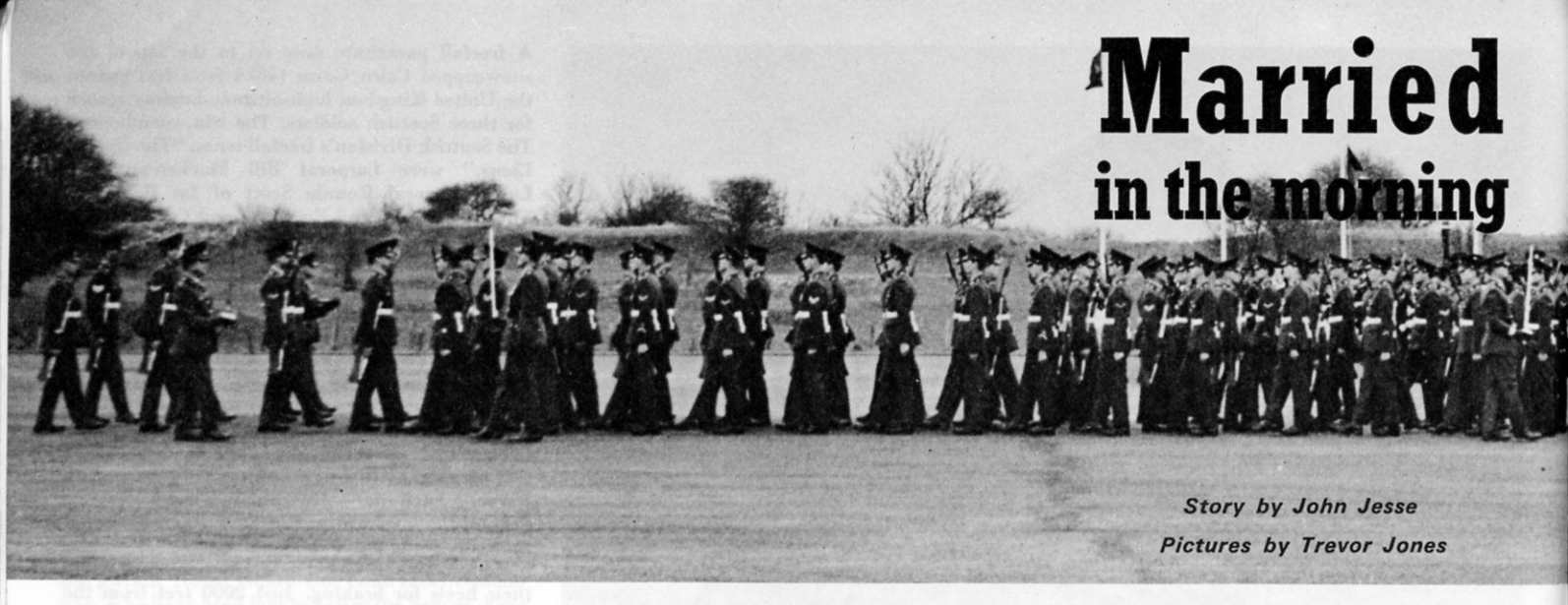
Courtesy Aberdeen Journals Ltd.

A 21-man pyramid on six motorcycles riding past Verden Town Hall was the high spot of the West German town's Anglo-German weekend. The riders were members of the White Helmets, the Royal Signals motorcycle display team. They went on to give a breathtaking show (above) in Verden's stadium. The weekend, which also included football matches, band concerts and a helicopter display, raised more than £500 for local charities. The White Helmets have a full programme this year specially to commemorate the Royal Signals' 50th anniversary and they are performing all over West Germany and in practically every county in Britain from Lands End to John o' Groats.

The Kings are queens, think the gunners of 2 Heavy Battery of 24 Missile Regiment, Royal Artillery. They have chosen twin sisters Gillian and Juliette King (above), 17-year-old models of Bray, Berkshire, as their official pin-ups. The twins decided to pay a visit when they heard that the regiment—at present stationed in Germany—was putting on a display at Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

"The essence of logistics is the prior estimation of requirement, capacity, space and time," says the slogan. A lecture (left) on the logistic systems of the German Armed Forces at the Logistikschule der Bundeswehr was part of a course on German affairs for British officers and civilians in Hamburg. The course, twelfth in a series run by the Army's Higher Education Centre, embraced politics, economics and social and cultural affairs. The week's programme included visits to the Heeresoffizierschule der Bundeswehr (the German Sandhurst), radio and television studios, a publisher, Hamburg's harbour and town hall, and the British Petroleum refinery. Major Alan Bayliss, of the Higher Education Centre, was in charge of the course and one of the "students" was Brigadier Harry Thomas, Chief Education Officer of Rhine Army.

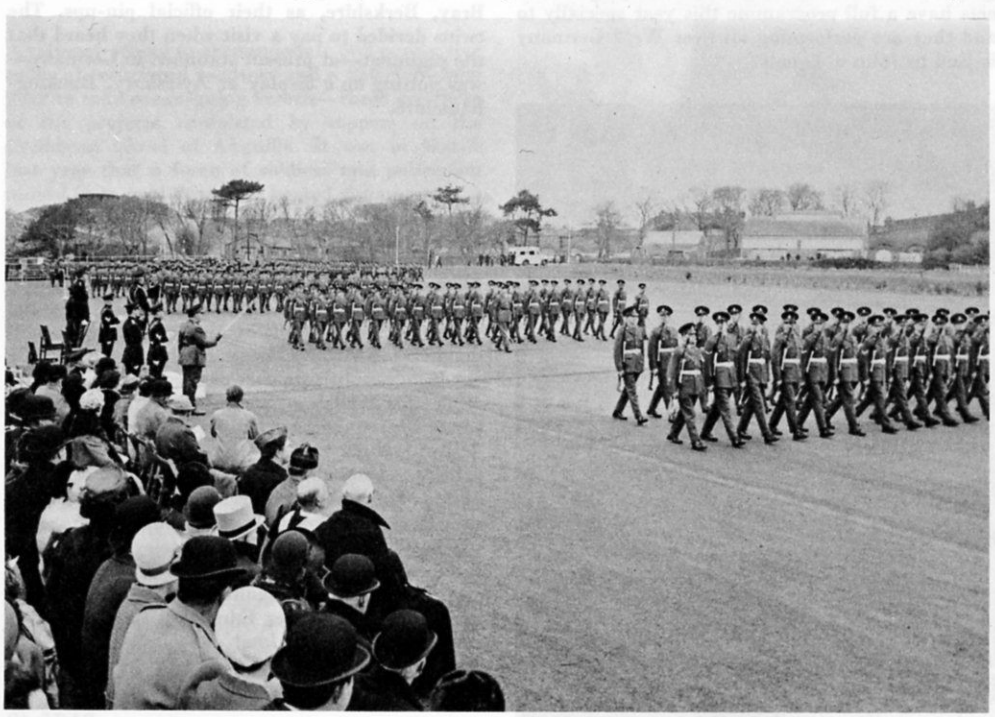
Married in the morning



Story by John Jesse

Pictures by Trevor Jones

Field-Marshal Sir Gerald Templer presents the regiment with new Colours. Below: The march past.



"I'M Getting Married in the Morning." This was the gay forward-looking tune played by their bands and drums as first The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire) and then The Lancashire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Volunteers) marched on to the parade ground at Connaught Barracks, Dover.

And true enough these two Lancashire regiments were getting married in the morning for this was the day of their amalgamation, the day on which they became The Queen's Lancashire Regiment.

The ceremony—unhurried, precise and conducted with great dignity—was watched by more than a thousand people. There were old comrades, many sporting the red rose of Lancaster; 22 mayors and mayoresses of Lancashire towns as well as the civic heads of Dover, Folkestone and Hythe; six uniformed Chelsea Pensioners (all former members of the regiments) and Mr (ex-Regimental Sergeant Major) Spencer John Bent VC. Better known as Joe to his old Army friends, Mr Bent, now living in Camberwell, London, was a drummer in The East Lancashire Regiment when he won his Victoria Cross early in World War One at Le Gheer, near Messines.

This amalgamation was a most moving ceremony. It was something more than the lowering of the old regimental flags and the raising of the new. It was a physical merging as the Loyals and the Lancashires shed their separate identities by a symbolic intermingling of the ranks. The two bands became one; the two regiments became one. It was as if they had somehow, and quite naturally, flowed into each other to become linked in the unity of the newly created Queen's Lancashire Regiment.

The Queen, who is Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment, sent a message saying: "My travels overseas make it impossible for me to present your Colours today and I have asked Field-Marshal Sir Gerald Templer to do this on my behalf. I wish you all every success in the future and I look forward to seeing my new regiment on some future occasion."

Then, draped over magnificent regimental silver drums, the new Colours were consecrated by the Venerable Archdeacon J R Youens, Chaplain-General to the Forces, before being formally presented by Sir Gerald.

Both the old regiments have distinguish-

ed pasts. The Lancashire Regiment was itself the product of previous amalgamations involving the 30th, 40th, 59th and 82nd Foot who between them served with distinction in virtually every campaign in which the British Army has operated including China, where a unique battle honour, Canton, was won.

Raised in 1741, The Loyal Regiment first saw action four years later at the Battle of Prestonpans. In 1750 they sailed for Canada and at the Battle of Quebec occupied a position of honour in the centre of the line and later became known as "Wolfe's Own." As an expression of grief for the general's death a black line was introduced into the uniform and black was still worn up to the time of the present amalgamation in the form of lanyards and on officers' mess kit.

Lieutenant-Colonel David Houston, formerly of the Loyals, commands 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, which numbers about 700 soldiers. Later this year the battalion leaves Dover for Germany on a three-year posting in a new role as a mechanised unit using armoured personnel carriers.

Above: A new regiment is born as ranks of Loyals and Lancashires merge with each other as The Queen's Lancashire Regiment.

Left: Taking the salute, the first Colonel of the new regiment, Maj-Gen the Hon Michael Fitzalan Howard.

Right: Snugly wrapped up against a biting wind, a family watches the parade.

SAVING THE GUNS

The World War One action in which 37 Howitzer Battery, Royal Field Artillery, saved its guns at Le Cateau is the subject of this painting (reproduced below in black-and-white) commissioned from Terence T Cuneo by the Royal Artillery.

The action at Le Cateau, in which Captain Reynolds, Driver Luke (wheel driver) and Driver Drain (lead driver) all won the Victoria Cross, is commemorated in the title of 37 Howitzer Battery's successor, 93 (Le Cateau) Medium Battery, Royal Artillery.

This colour print measures 21 x 14½ inches and with its white border 23 x 17¼ inches. It costs, including packing and postage to any part of the world, £2 2s 0d.

Orders, accompanied by cheque, postal order, money order or international money order, should be sent to SOLDIER (Print LC 2), 433 Holloway Road, London N7.

Return to Hamminkeln

Story by George Hogan

FROM the skies dropped the British paras. On the ground, waiting for them, the German paras. It was their first meeting, at Hamminkeln, east of the Rhine, in 1945.

Twenty-five years later, now as partners in NATO, the veterans of 6th Airborne Division and the German First Parachute Army, met again on the Rhine to honour their dead.

On 24 March 1945 the British airborne troops dropped from the skies for the great Rhine crossing, meticulously planned by Field-Marshal Montgomery and preceded by an hour's bombardment by 2000 guns. Formations of the British Second and United States Ninth armies crossed the swiftly rushing swollen river over a rapidly constructed pontoon bridge at Wesel.

As the ground troops linked up on the edge of the town the Royal Air Force dropped 1000 tons of bombs with pinpoint accuracy to reduce the remaining buildings to desolate chaotic rubble. The thick smoke, filled with mortar dust, rose and drifted towards the village of Hamminkeln five miles to the north where the gun barrage had pounded the German ground forces, knocking out much of their anti-aircraft defences.

In the fields for miles around Hamminkeln and along the line of the river Issel seasoned troops of the German First Parachute Army waited for the airborne assault they knew would come. These were tough soldiers who had not yet met Britain's Red Devils but who knew their reputation.

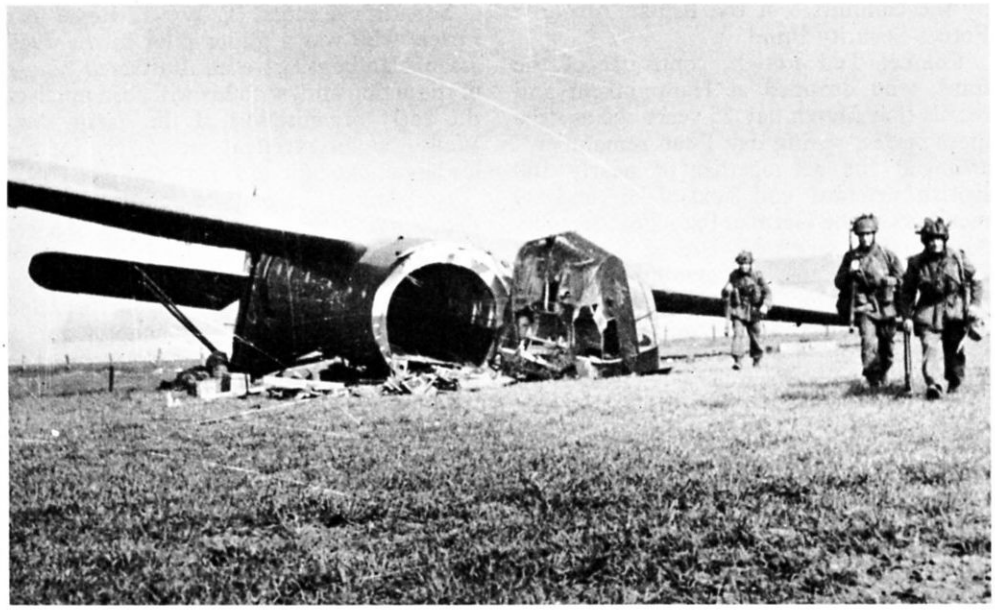
The Germans would not be taken by surprise as they had been at Arnhem. They were ready in force and, as parachutists, had the first-hand knowledge to understand the reactions and likely tactics of airborne men. Their intelligence had told them five days earlier that 6th Airborne Division was confined to camp in Britain and ready to strike. A deciphered British message alerted them to full preparedness.

At 10 o'clock in the morning of 24 March the allied air armada flew in—1500 aircraft and 1300 gliders carrying in one lift the 6th British and 17th United States divisions. It was the largest concentrated airborne assault of World War Two, totalling almost 17,000 men, 600 tons of ammunition and 800 vehicles and guns. One thousand fighters swept clear the sky ahead of them.

At dawn 6th Airborne Division in 240 Dakotas and 440 Hamilcar and Horsa gliders, from 11 airfields in East Anglia and Southern England, had formed up over the fields of Kent near Folkestone. In the circling aircraft were more than 7000 men of 3rd and 5th parachute brigades, 6th Air Landing Brigade and divisional troops.

In 3rd Brigade, commanded by Brigadier S J L Hill, were 8th Parachute Battalion (Midlands), 9th Parachute Battalion (Home Counties) and 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion. The 5th Brigade (Brigadier J H N Poett) comprised 7th, 12th and 13th parachute battalions (Light Infantry, Yorkshire and Lancashire respectively).

British airborne troops move into action as their gliders touch down at Hamminkeln. The long double column of aircraft stretched 500 miles.



The gliders were made to belly-land if necessary and the Germans were amazed to see troops emerge fighting fit from badly damaged craft. These Royal Army Medical Corps personnel have just landed.

The accuracy of the landings was remarkable but some gliders suffered badly as did this one at Hamminkeln railway station and the jeep it carried (left). Even in such crashes many survived.

Just landed and a German prisoner already. Now to dash to the objective in burning Hamminkeln. Jeep, trailer, motorcycles and troops all came in the gliders of 6th Airborne Division in 1945.

In 6th Air Landing Brigade (Brigadier R H Bellamy), in Hamilcars and Horsas piloted by Glider Pilot Regiment and Royal Air Force personnel, were 1st Battalion, The Royal Ulster Rifles, 2nd Battalion, The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, and 12th Battalion, The Devonshire Regiment.

Divisional troops included 6th Airborne Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment and 53rd (Worcestershire Yeomanry) Light Regiment. The division was commanded by Major-General Eric Bols.

The force flew south in a cloudless sky across the Channel to Belgium and on to Wavre near Brussels, the assembly point with the United States 17th Airborne Division which had come from airfields in France. Then eastward under the 18th United States Airborne Corps commander, Major-General Matthew (later to be Supreme Commander Europe), with Major-General Richard Gale as his deputy.

This vast armada took two-and-a-half hours to pass any given point and flew over the Rhine to its objectives in two orderly columns, the parachutists to drop and the gliders to land in four areas of about five square miles around Hamminkeln. Prime Minister Winston Churchill and General Eisenhower, Supreme Commander Allied Forces, watched from a hill at Xanten, west of the Rhine.

At 10 in the morning, without the advantage of surprise and in spite of the heavy advance barrage, the men from the skies had a hot reception. Many aircraft were hit and only about a fifth of the gliders escaped damage, yet most landed right by their objectives. The Germans were amazed to see men emerge and rush into action from apparently hopelessly crashed gliders.

One broke up in the air and its tank and crew fell through to the ground. Another crashed with terrible injuries to the passengers. Its pilot was hurled through the Perspex cockpit. Dazed, he picked up his badly bent rifle, staggered to a wheel and sat down with head in hands to recover. Looking up he saw 20 Germans surrendering to him.

Such was the German morale at that time as the gliders continued to land and crash and the parachutists rushed into action from their dropping zones. Their Dakotas suffered heavily, too. More than half of one brigade's 120 were damaged or destroyed as they turned for home. One American regiment had 80 out of 114 aircraft shot down or damaged.

Although the ground opposition was vigorous the Red Devils and the glider-borne troops soon had control of the situation and by nightfall all organised resistance west of the Issel had been overcome.

The six bridges over the Issel were captured intact. The enemy defences on the east of the Rhine had been so disrupted that the right-flank brigade of 15th (Scottish) Division was able to link up with 6th Airborne early in the afternoon of the first day. Casualties were not as heavy as had been feared. By the first evening 6th Airborne had about 1400 casualties out of a strength of 7220 and had taken 1500 prisoners; the United States 17th Airborne landed 9650 and lost about 1300, capturing some 2000.

There were German counter-attacks and further resistance but the whole airborne corps forced the enemy 12 miles further east in the next three days.

Thereafter the advance was rapid. On 2 May 1945, 6th Airborne Division captured Wismar on the Baltic coast. Its men were the first to land in Normandy on D-Day and now first to the Baltic and first to contact Russian troops from the eastern front.

The paras won headlines for their long trek across Germany with marches of 25 to 30 miles at a time followed by a battle or patrol activity through sleepless nights. A Royal Air Force pilot reported that the roads across Germany were "one long line of red berets."

That was 1945. The British and German paras met again at Wesel on 23 March 1970, a quarter of a century after their first dramatic encounter. Germany and Britain are now partners in NATO and this handclasp of pilgrims to the airborne war graves of the two nations was initiated by the committee of the British Airborne Forces Security Fund.

Colonel Ted Lough, controller of the fund, who dropped at Hamminkeln and recalls that March day 25 years ago as "the most perfect spring day I can remember," arranged the get-together of nearly 100 British veterans and next-of-kin and 30 members of the German Parachute League. Also in the party were United States and Canadian veterans, representative of 17th Airborne Division and 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion.

The Germans were led by their president, Colonel-General Kurt Student, the pioneer who evolved parachuting techniques following early Russian experiments.

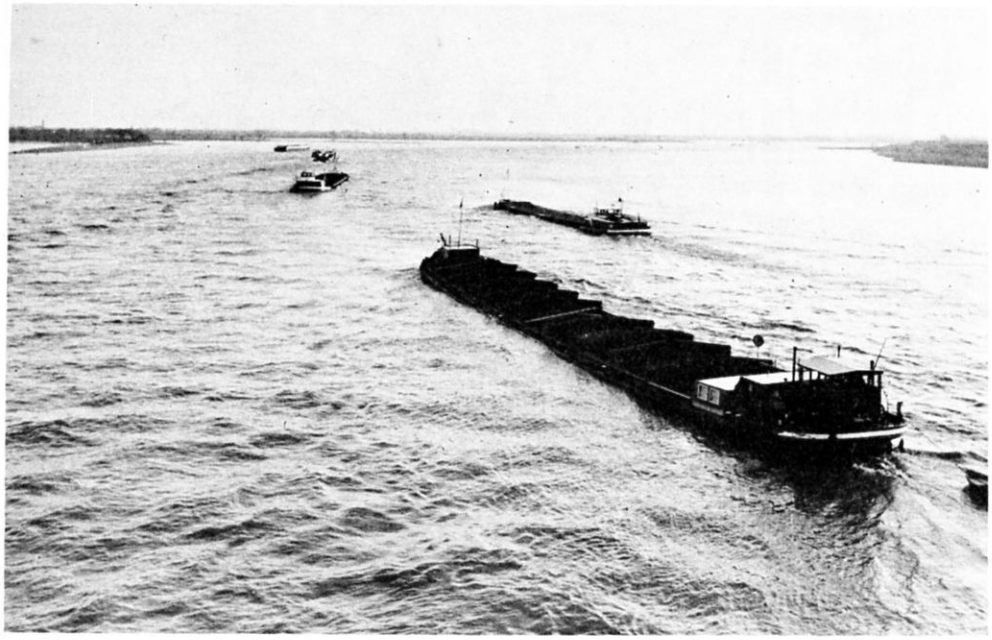
The Mayor of Wesel welcomed the pilgrims at the Rathaus where Major-General Eric Bols and Colonel-General Student set the tone of the pilgrimage by emphasising the aims of NATO and the necessity to go forward together to the future. The mayor accompanied the pilgrims throughout their two-day stay.

Squadron-Leader T Wells, Royal Air Force, who was a glider pilot in the 1945 assault landings, gave an illustrated *résumé* of the action and, with his wife, did much of the early organisation of the event. Mrs Wells was an excellent interpreter for the leaders at the official functions.

An Anglo-German remembrance and thanksgiving service was held at the rebuilt Willibrordi Cathedral in Wesel followed by a ceremony at the German war cemetery at which German, British and United States guards of honour and a Bundeswehr band were present. The British guard, found by 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, flew from Britain specially for the occasion. The battalion, representative of Yorkshire, Lancashire, Northumberland and Durham, is the successor to the 12th and 13th parachute battalions that fought in the Rhine-crossing.

A 30-mile coach ride took the pilgrims to the huge Reichswald Forest war cemetery where rows upon rows of British airborne

General salute at the Reichswald Forest British War Cemetery with German, United States and British honour guards and pilgrims of four nations.



The Rhine at Wesel today showing the enormous width that had to be crossed over a 30-mile front by Montgomery's 21st Army Group. Today there is a continuous stream of heavily laden barges.

Wesel bridge in 1945 with British Second Army Troops ready to cross to the town. Today the bridge is restored but is now higher above the river. The town, which was utterly destroyed, is rebuilt.

The success of the airborne assault enabled 15th (Scottish) Division to link up swiftly after crossing the Rhine. These are men of The King's Own Scottish Borderers in woods near Hamminkeln.

troops and Royal Air Force crews lie buried. Here the band of 14th/20th King's Hussars, from Paderborn, was waiting in the raw, cold and misty midday air.

The ceremony was simple; the hymns, sung in German and English, echoed through the mist. The sun broke through for just a brief moment but this was far different weather from that sunny June-like day of March 1945. More than 300 took part and wreaths were laid, as in the German cemetery, by both German and British pilgrims and the Mayor of Wesel.

Last Post and Reveille were sounded by two buglers of 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, flown out from Aldershot, and at the end the national anthems of Germany and the United States were played, followed by "O, Canada" and "God Save the Queen." A mile-long procession of cars, coaches and German and British military vehicles, escorted by German police, took the party to the Royal Air Force station at Laarbruch.

After lunch the pilgrims began their journey home, the British stopping at the Reichswald Forest, to make personal visits to graves, and at Groesbeek cemetery where Major-General Bols laid a wreath in memory of Canadian airborne comrades.

The previous day there had been a visit to the village of Hamminkeln where a new wide main road sweeps through the country tracks the soldiers knew. The post- and wire-fenced fields where they landed and fought are flat without vantage points. Each tree looks like any other but recollections and recognitions led to reminiscences and anecdotes.

"I remember they were shelling us from that wood." "Now my battalion headquarters was probably there—yes, I'm almost sure it was that house." "We landed here—no, no, not 7.30, it was about 10." "Aircraft and gliders—it was like a conveyor belt coming along." "You were wounded here." A smile to the group: "That is why he has got a funny nose." "They had no ammunition." "Yes, I know they were short."

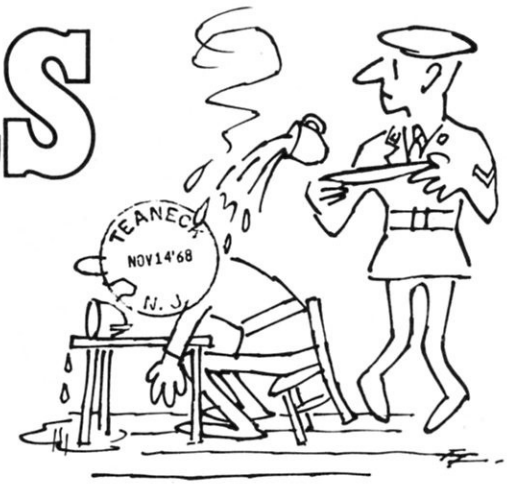
A medical officer recalled tending the wounded: "We could hear the Germans as we passed several times during the night. They could hear us. It was live and let live." An interpreter for a German farmer's wife: "Later there were still some British soldiers walking about here, but we did not worry—for us the war was over."

In the square by the Willibrordi Cathedral two civilians, short in stature, broad in build, stood chatting. Mr Stan Royle, ex-private of the Ox and Bucks, had discovered Herr Ludwig Stangassinger, ex-sergeant of the German 11th Parachute Regiment.

The two Stans met only the day before in the mayor's parlour, but they had been mighty close to it in 1945. The German had won the Iron Cross for knocking out eight tanks with eight shots—one of them Stan Royle's. "With a 75mm long barrel," said Stangassinger. "I always thought it was an 88," said Stan Royle. Stan is now a toolmaker in Crawley, Sussex. Ludwig lives in Bergisch-Gladbach by Cologne, but was in England in 1960 working as a waiter in the King's Head Hotel, Loughborough, Leicestershire.

He is likely to be back in England soon—looking up the other Stan.

LETTERS



BRING BACK THE FLUTE!

It appears that the flute-playing corps of drums is in serious danger of extinction in the British Army unless some interest is taken at a fairly high level.

From my own observations during the last few years it appears that in all too many regiments the flutes are giving way to ranks of buglers who seldom do anything but march behind the regimental band. The band does not receive any assistance on a long march from the corps of drums.

Would it not be possible to have centralised instruction in drumming and flute playing in the same way that we now have the Army School of Piping? If prospective drummers could do a short course of music after their basic training and before joining their regiments this should ensure that the art is not lost for all time.

Alternatively directors of music and bandmasters could perhaps take more interest in seeing that their own corps are as proficient as possible.

I would add that I know this does not apply to all regiments. My remarks are not directed at regimental bands (for whose standard I have the highest regard) but at the corps of drums of infantry battalions.

I appreciate that all drummers are first and foremost fighting troops with a secondary ceremonial role. This of course dates back some hundreds of years before military bands were introduced, when the troops were marched into battle behind the fifes and drums who then remained in the line to relay commands and fight if necessary. The fife has long since been replaced by the flute but it is a unique sound and one which should not be allowed to disappear through lack of interest.—**R J Davenport, 76 Domonic Drive, New Eltham, London SE9.**

★ *Lieutenant - Colonel C H Jaeger, Director of Music, Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, says: "There certainly is some change in the structure of regiments and their music but I do not agree that corps of drums are giving way to ranks of bugles. Neither is it true that bands do not receive any assistance on a long march from corps of drums. This is certainly not true in The Guards Division.*

"I have always supported the idea of a corps of drums school but prevailing economic conditions will not allow it, alas!"

"Royal" myth

I have been told that infantry regimental bands and drums are not allowed scarlet tunics unless they are "Royal" regiments. I think this is false but would welcome your advice.—**J A Smith, 31 Brewster Street, Liverpool L4 3TL.**

★ *You are absolutely right, Mr Smith. The prefix "Royal" has no bearing on whether an infantry regimental band does or does not wear scarlet tunics. However, the bandsmen of most "Royal" regiments do have the distinction of a scarlet band round their caps and thin scarlet piping around the outer rim. The facings and special characteristics of individual regimental band uniforms are largely dictated by jealously guarded regimental traditions which have been handed down over the years.*

Remember old Taff?

On leaving the Army I was struck down with paralysis and although I am now better I am still housebound. The use of my hands has come back and now that I can write I wish to trace former friends. I should be in your debt if you could ask any former members of 9 Company, Royal Army Service Corps, who wish to keep in touch, to write to me.—**T Davies ("Taff"), 16 Napier Street, Gloucester GL1 4AS.**

Don't help the knockers!

Does the Ministry of Defence ever protest about the steady stream of television plays which make the Army a target at which any kind of abuse can be hurled?

It is bad enough to see scruffy actors playing scruffy soldiers with the usual complement of brutal sergeants and incompetent officers etc but recently I saw a play on BBC television, at a peak viewing time, which was obviously made with the co-operation of the Army and which must have been the worst kind of publicity.

One scene showed a young recruit being forced by a sergeant squad-instructor (an ignorant bully of course) to double round a parade ground, while holding a rifle above his head, until he nearly collapsed.

The whole picture of modern Army life in this play could have put off for good any young man thinking of a Service career. The scene was an Army depot and in the background real soldiers, including an officer, could be seen walking about.

No one in this country wants the Services to have the power to veto plays or films they don't like but in these days of recruit shortage it seems little more than commonsense for them to prohibit the making of anti-Army films or plays on Army property with Army co-operation.—**N S Major, 26 Buxton Road, Brighton, Sussex.**

★ *A Ministry of Defence spokesman comments: "We strongly deprecate this type of programme on which our views have been made known on several occasions. We recognise this case as one in which our help in production was requested—and refused. Our objections were based on the reasons noted by Mr Major with whom we wholeheartedly agree."*

British Free Corps

The appearance of Mr Beadle's letter (March) is most fortuitous. Mr J G Slade, after many years of thorough research, has recently produced what may well be the definitive work on the subject of the Legion of St George and the British Free Corps, with the various resultant courts-martial and trials.—**Philip H Buss, 19 Palmar's Cross Hill, Rough Common, Canterbury, Kent.**

Pride and reverence

I am writing to tell you how impressed I was by my recent visit to your country. With an old school friend I visited Edinburgh Castle and saw a sight I shall never forget—the Scottish War Memorial. To me it was like a Christian visiting the Holy Land or a Moslem making a pilgrimage to Mecca.

I felt deep down a true feeling of pride, respect and reverence. Not by reason of ancestors who came from Scotland but from a professional soldier's point of view—something that means the same to a soldier be he English, Scottish, Korean, Russian or American. On the walls are written the names, the dates and the battles which

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VICTORY CLUB EXPANDS

The reduction in the Armed Forces will in the near future have a detrimental effect on the numbers who are eligible to become members of the Victory Ex-Services Club and the only way to run it on a profitable and sound basis and, at the same time, carry out necessary improvements, is to maintain a membership figure of 35,000 to 40,000, says a statement issued by the club. Since 1968 membership has dropped by more than 2000.

Under its present constitution the club is permitted to enrol as members both serving and ex-Servicemen and women although in fact it has never accepted serving members. "It is, however, inevitable that sooner or later serving men and women will have to be admitted to membership of the club since there will be insufficient ex-Servicemen and women available to enable us to maintain the numbers we require," says the statement.

It has therefore been decided to extend the scope of the club now to include those who are still serving. This will not only enable membership to be maintained at the required level but will also enable the club to establish a reputation in the Armed Forces which will be vital to the interests of the club as the potential number of ex-Servicemen and women diminishes with the passing years.

"The serving man of today is the ex-Serviceman of tomorrow and, by his support, he is enabling us to keep this club running at a cost that those on retired pensions are able to afford," the statement concludes.

will not only be part of Scotland, the British Empire and the Commonwealth but will live forever in the most reverent memory of all men who bear arms for their countries.

So, as one professional soldier to another, I must say "Thank you" for something I shall never forget.—**SP5 George A Moore III, PO Box 4021, APO New York 09380, USA.**

African marching songs

I am anxious to trace the words of the old marching songs of the Royal West African Frontier Force and King's African Rifles battalions in English or in the various African languages.

Would any readers who happen to know the texts of any of these songs be so kind as to send them to me?—**A H Clayton, Senior Lecturer, Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, Camberley, Surrey.**

It's an M4 A2!

The American tank destroyed in Korea, pictured on page 19 of the March SOLDIER, is not an M26 but one of the M4 series, almost certainly

an M4 A2. Note the differential housing, front drive sprocket, glacis plate and turret shape.—**J Hellis, The Cottage, Cheddon Fitzpaine, Taunton, Somerset.**

When Gan began

I noticed in the report by Army Public Relations on the Services Medical Equipment Depot in Singapore (February) that Gan is referred to as an Indian Ocean atoll. Actually Gan is one of five islands surrounding a huge lagoon which make up Addu Atoll. The other islands are Maradu, Hittadu, Midu and Wiringili. This is the most southerly group of islands in the Maldives.

Gan, where I was stationed for 14 months in movement control during World War Two, was then one of the Royal Navy's "stone frigates"— HMS Maraga, a re-fuelling and victualling base for ships operating in and around the Indian Ocean. Apart from naval personnel there were on the island certain Army units—an Indian boat company (Indian Engineers) which operated ramped landing craft and included stevedores for the unloading and loading of cargo vessels; an Army workshop (general repairs and maintenance of vehicles etc); Indian infantry units responsible for transport arrangements and fatigues; a Royal Army Ordnance Corps depot and movement control.

There was an airfield on Gan (no doubt the same one as is there today) but funnily enough the Royal Air Force personnel were stationed on Hittadu where there was no airfield. They did, however, have quite a lot of dealings with flying boats which came from the Colombo area (Ratmalana, I think) and flew in the mail once weekly.

Addu Atoll is, as the report states, lonely but no doubt there are more facilities there than during the war.—**C E West (ex-RQMS The Devonshire Regiment), 156 West Farm Wynd, Longbenton, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE12 8UJ.**

Kwai-Bogey

Returning from abroad I read your February review of the record "The World of Military Bands" and noted that it contains three marches composed by the late Bandmaster Ricketts of my old regiment, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. They are "The River Kwai March," "On the Quarter Deck" and "The Thin Red Line."

I am very distressed to see that the first of these is misnamed, as any Regular (or irregular) soldier will tell you. He knows it as "Colonel Bogey" and sings some rather rude but well-known words to it.—**Lieut-Col G I Malcolm of Poltalloch, Duntrune Castle, Lochgilphead, Argyll.**

★ *Reviewer RB replies: Sorry, Colonel. Shortage of space made me refer to the River Kwai March without mention of Colonel Bogey. As any Regular (or irregular) soldier now knows (unless he has been long abroad), Colonel Bogey is as often called River Kwai as River Kwai is called Colonel Bogey. Both tunes appear on the track in question, played in counterpoint to each other.*

In the River Kwai film British soldiers are seen on their way to a Japanese prison camp. They are whistling Colonel Bogey (what else?) and so far the scene is fairly touching but a mere film-maker's cliché. Then Malcolm Arnold's famous counter-tune emerges from the unseen orchestra and suddenly Alford's little "get knotted" theme is given such a lift as made those of us who heard it sit bolt upright in our seats, neck hair on end, wanting to cheer but too tight-throated to do so.

No, River Kwai is not Colonel Bogey, and Mrs Ricketts for one was grateful for that. The hitherto virtually unknown-outside-Britain Colonel Bogey was being whistled from San Francisco to Vladivostok, from Oslo to (yes) Tokyo. Save your distress, Colonel, for some more worthy cause. Mrs Ricketts made a belated fortune out of "The River Kwai March."

NEW BADGE

This first regimental cap badge of The King's Own Royal Border Regiment was formally taken into use on St George's Day, at a parade at Roman Barracks, Colchester. The regiment, formed in 1959 by the amalgamation of The King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster) and The Border Regiment, had not previously had its own cap badge, having worn since amalgamation the badge of The Lancastrian Brigade.

First in the field

May I challenge a statement in "Rhine Army Round Up" (February)? The first-ever barrel change, in the field, of the 175mm M107 gun was not completed by 20 Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery, as claimed, but by 50 (Queen Mary's) Heavy Battery in April 1966. Personalities concerned were AQMS (now Captain) Green-

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street, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Sergeant (now Battery Sergeant-Major) Bowen and Bombardier (now Mr) Spencer. The barrel was not changed as a practice but because the first proofing round fired from the gun ripped out the shock seating of the original barrel. The changing of the barrel in the mud and rain of Hohne ranges took 1½ hours.

We claim that 50 (Queen Mary's) Heavy Battery of 32 Heavy Regiment was first again.—**WO II (BSM) Bowen, 50 (Queen Mary's) Heavy Battery RA, 32 Heavy Regiment RA, Hildesheim, BFPO 102.**

★ *SOLDIER's article was based on information supplied by Army Public Relations.*

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(*see page* 33)

The two pictures differ in the folowing respects: 1 Right hind hoof of cow. 2 Lower bar of gate. 3 "G" in "Crossing." 4 Top of signpost. 5 Smaller black shape on cow. 6 Soldier's mouth. 7 Shoulder title. 8 Right lapel. 9 Right cuff. 10 Road marking at left.

COLLECTORS' CORNER

K W Jary, 15 Vienna Place, Birkenhead, Auckland, New Zealand.—*Requires bayonet in good condition to fit a Mk 5 jungle carbine.*

A MacDonald-Bell, 14 Iona Avenue, Exmouth, Devon.—*Collects anything relating to World War One.*

S R Pardoe, 8 Park View Terrace, Brighton, Sussex BN1 5PW.—*Wishes sell or exchange small collection military cap badges. SAE for list.*

John Price, Flat 7, 16 Barrett Street, Cheltenham, Victoria 3129, Australia.—*Collects cap badges and specialises British Territorial, Militia, Volunteer and Yeomanry units. All correspondence acknowledged.*

Eigil Martinsen, Akselsgate 6, N-3100 Tønsberg, Norway.—*Wishes buy cap badges and cloth shoulder flashes any army, navy or air force to start collection; would also like to correspond with collectors with similar interest.*

Howard Ripley, 42 Chatsworth Crescent, Pudsey, Yorkshire LS28 8LD.—*Collects worldwide army buttons all periods especially British Militia, Volunteers, Yeomanry and colonial. Will purchase or exchange.*

D MacPherson, 88a 6th Avenue, Mayfair, Johannesburg, South Africa.—*Requires cap and collar badges Transvaal Scottish Volunteers, King's African Rifles, Selous Scouts of Rohdesia; also, where possible, stable belts.*

Eric Wiseman, 70 Mountbatten Square, Windsor, Berks.—*Will exchange original military water colours—British Indian, German, colonial, American troops approx 12 × 8ins for cap badges etc.*

Maj G L Potts, IJLB, Park Hall Camp, Oswestry, Shropshire.—*Requires following British Indian Army cap badges: 3rd Cavalry, 9th R Deccan Horse, 20th Lancers and 21st KGOH (Central Indian Horse); also pre-1881 badges Irish and Scottish regiments. Please state price.*

R Campbell, Drumnameel, Fivemiletown, Co Tyrone, Northern Ireland.—*Wishes buy or exchange military cap badges, buttons and other insignia all armies.*

S R Jackson, 133 Bradfield Road, Urmston, Manchester.—*Requires copies of Signal, Die Wehrmacht and Der Adler. Has some British World War One divisional histories for sale or exchange.*

T E Davies, 16 Napier Street, Gloucester GL1 4AS.—*Requires 1959-60-61 copies of The Waggoner (journal of RASC). Full price paid.*

J P Haynes, c/o ARL/DO, Queens Road, Teddington, Middlesex.—*Requires mint condition facing pair Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders collar badges and Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders other ranks' sporran badge. Please state price. All letters answered.*

REUNION

Military Provost Staff Corps Association. Reunion dinner Saturday 4 July, Berechurch Hall Camp, Colchester. Details from hon sec MPSC Association, Berechurch Hall Camp.

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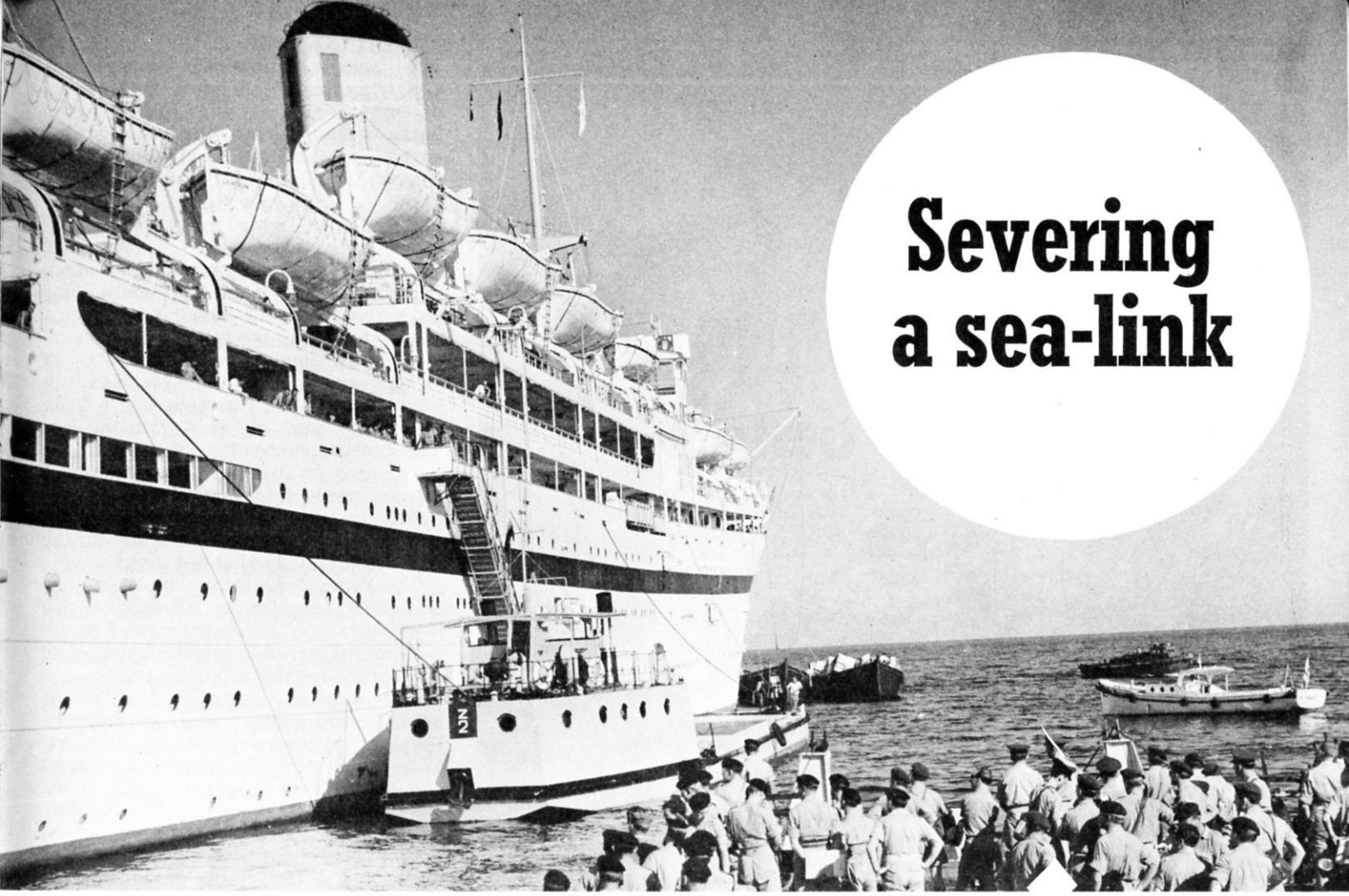

Severing a sea-link

WITH quayside Dolly Grays waving tearstained hankies and brass bands booming out "Soldiers of the Queen," their ships have transported troops overseas to fight Boers in South Africa, Dervishes in Sudan and Boxers in China.

Now, after 114 years, the Army has severed its link with the British India Steam Navigation Company. The Army began chartering ships from the company, then called Calcutta and Burma Steam Navigation, back in 1856. These troopships were used for the Abyssinian expedition of 1868, the occupation of Egypt to safeguard the Suez Canal in 1882, colonial campaigns and in both world wars.

British India Steam Navigation had ships specially built for trooping, such as the Dilwara, Dunera and Nevasa. When sea trooping was superseded by air transport in 1962 the company's contract was prematurely terminated. But the year before it had taken over responsibility for placing contracts, supervision of construction and management of the Army's projected fleet of logistics ships.

These LSLs (landing ships logistic) were named after the Round Table knights Sir Geraint, Sir Percivale, Sir Lancelot, Sir Tristram, Sir Bedivere and Sir Galahad. They replaced the cumbersome tank landing ships (LSTs) but had neater lines and amenities of passenger liners.

The logistic ships have made a formidable contribution to the Army's operations and exercises worldwide. They have shipped supplies and equipment to Arctic Norway (see SOLDIER, May) and the sun-scorched Virgin Islands (SOLDIER, December 1968). Recently they have been involved in the withdrawal from Libya.

Now responsibility for running the fleet —comprising the six LSLs and one remaining LST, Empire Gull—passes from British India Steam Navigation to the Royal Fleet Auxiliary of the Royal Navy.

The handover was marked by a lunch party on board Sir Geraint at Marchwood. General Sir Antony Read, Quartermaster General, spoke of the Army's esteem for the company and presented its representatives with an Indian Mutiny print to hang in their London head office.

Above: Famagusta, Cyprus, 1962. The tropical sun sears her decks and translucent blue sea laps her hull. It was the Nevasa's last run as a troopship.

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SOLDIER put the Battle Game through "troop trials" and found it excellent, particularly in the variations which make each game quite different from the last. The trials were not long enough to test to destruction whether the mechanical plastic parts—firing guns, mines and trench ejectors—are boy-proof, but they are probably repairable and are in any case not absolutely vital to a game.

The Battle Game is for two players only. Objectives, decided in advance as the fancy takes one, are destruction of one or both enemy trenches or elimination of all or a limited number of enemy troops.

One surprise element, lacking in the normal board game, appears immediately. Each player, screened from his opponent, first places defensive obstacles of trees and barbed wire on his own half of the battlefield. These remain unless "blown" by opposing sappers to open up an attack.

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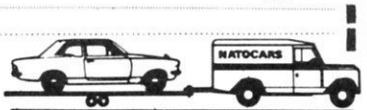

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officer, three non-commissioned officers, two sappers and 18 infantrymen. In certain areas of the battlefield an enemy force can be destroyed by a force of higher value moving into the same area. Other areas are neutral ground.

The gun swivels and has a retractable slide underneath the battlefield. When the trigger is pulled the slide springs up and firmly ejects any soldiers above it. Pin-point accuracy can be achieved. The mines—two each—work on a similar principle (left) but can eject up to four men.

At each turn a player has the choice of exploding a mine, traversing his gun or firing it, demolition of an obstacle, or moving his troops—and he may at one turn move a maximum of his officer, both sappers and a patrol (NCO and four men).

The rules can, of course, be varied by the players. Those supplied are basic and two useful additions to them could be made. One is that on the first move only, infantrymen take an obligatory two paces out of the trenches. This prevents them being used to block the trench from enemy troops and thus causing stalemate. The second is that pieces should not move diagonally forward from behind a tree (which shelters troops from the gun).

This is an excellent game of tactical skill—where is your opponent likely to attack? Does the disposition of his obstacles indicate where his mines are? Will he spot your feints? Can you disguise the line of your own attack?

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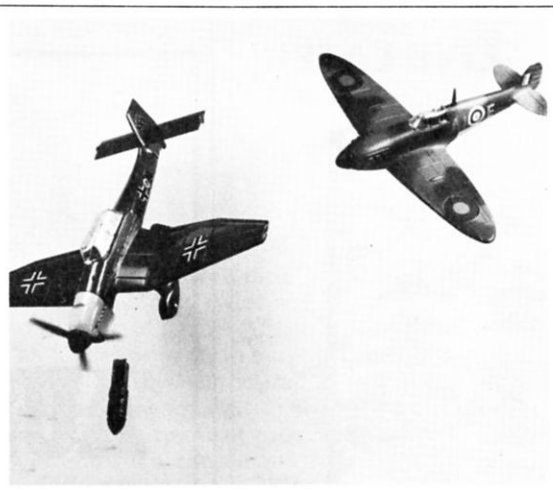

An ugly angular Stuka screams into a death-dealing dive while a gallant Spitfire races to intercept. This World War Two aerial drama is recreated (above) with two new models by Dinky Toys. The 7½-inch span Stuka has a cap-firing bomb and costs 15s 11d while the Spitfire has a battery-operated propeller and is 17s 11d. Dinky have produced these models to coincide with the release of the film "Battle of Britain" commemorating the 30th anniversary of the famous action.

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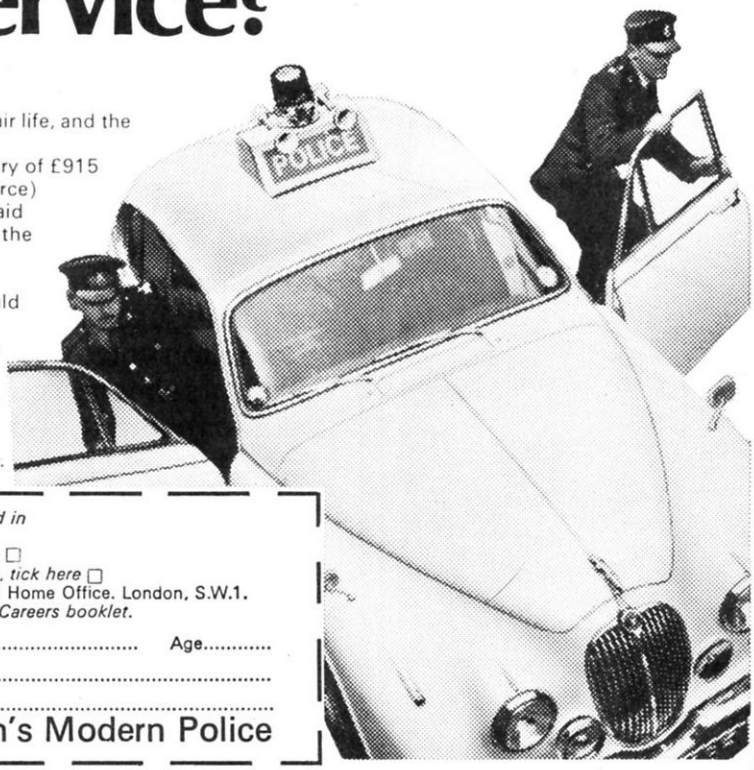

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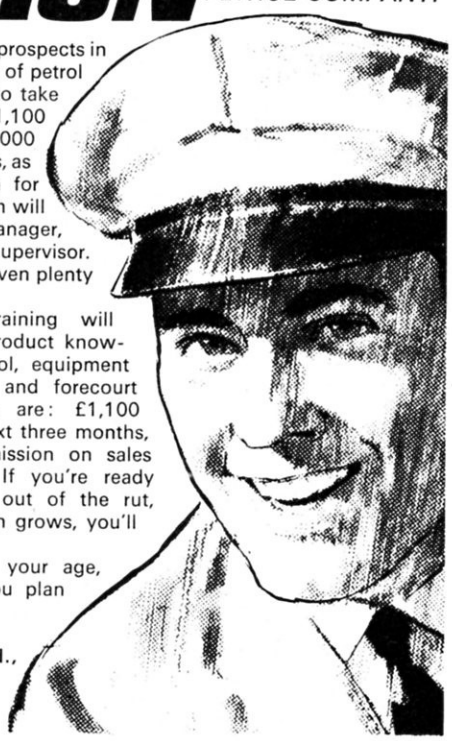

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COMPETITION 145

2 and 1 or 1 and 2

"There was a young soldier named Knight
Who thought that he possibly might
Solve this problem in "chess"
And in spite of the mess
Made each move just to prove he was right!

He knew of course that the knight in chess moves one square forward or backward and two sideways, or two forward or backward and one sideways. Now, with the help of the following data, can you solve this problem?

(a) The first move starts from a letter which appears only twice and is not on an even-numbered square.

(b) While the seventh move brings you to the letter T, the next is not to I or to an even-numbered square.

(c) H is the result of the 21st and 32nd moves and twin consonants follow square 25.

(d) The first column is used immediately after square 16 and the 18th move is to the top row.

(e) More than five moves must be made before F is used and the 12th move is to the second row followed by a move to the last column.

(f) No square is used more than once and the second move is to a letter in the first half of the alphabet.

Surprisingly, perhaps, it all makes sense. The question is: Can you say which knight said what?

Send your answer, on a postcard or by letter, with the "Competition 145" label from this page, and your name and address, to:

Editor (Comp 145)
SOLDIER
433 Holloway Road
London N7.

This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday 14 September. The answers and winners' names will appear in the November SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 145" label. Winners will be drawn from correct entries.

1 T		2 O	3 W		4 F	
5 O		6 O	7 A	8 O		9 W
10 T	11 N	12 E		13 L	14 A	15 R
	16 G	17 I	18 G	19 O	20 E	21 N
	22 H	23 L	24 S	25 A	26 D	27 L
28 L	29 H	30 E	31 T		32 N	33 C
34 E			35 A	36 N	37 F	

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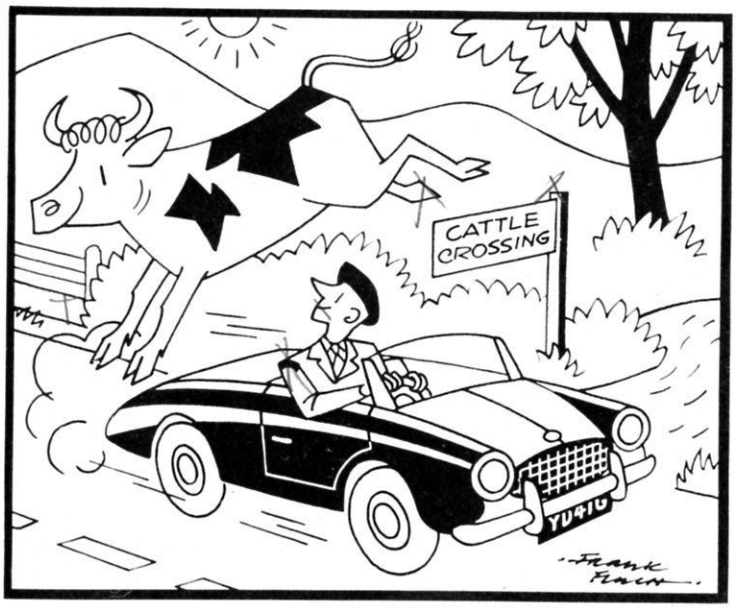
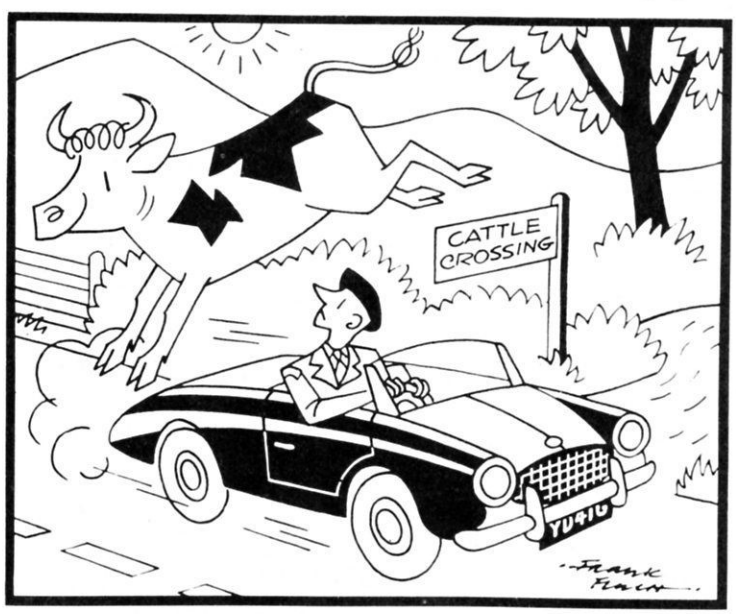
These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences see page 28.





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DANDY SANDI

The dulcet voice of disc jockey **Sandi Jones** took on a stentorian tone as she shouted: "Left, right, left, right . . . . " And a squad of Gloucester Army cadets (above) marched obediently across the square of 3rd Royal Tank Regiment's barracks in Wolfenbüttel. Sandi, (right), whose "Sounds Like Sunday" programme is a favourite of listeners to the British Forces Broadcasting Service in Germany, had become a non-commissioned-officer for a day. She was the star of a film for the Army being made by Bristol Television. Sandi was just getting into her stride with the drilling when the cadets marched off into the distance. "What do I say next?" she pleaded. "About turn," prompted the sound-man. But it was the television crew's turn to be worried minutes later when the squad got within

FLYING DOCTOR

Major Ian Perry, Royal Army Medical Corps, is the Army's sole flying doctor. He is pictured above at the Army Aviation Centre, Middle Wallop, helping to strap in **Major-General R I Mitchell,** deputy director of Army medical services at Headquarters Army Strategic Command, before taking him on a flight in a Sioux helicopter. Major Perry has flown more than 250 hours in the Sioux. His speciality is aviation medicine and he is responsible for the health and welfare of 500 Army aviation ground and aircrew personnel all over the world. During a visit to the United States last year, he gave a lecture on the problems of low-level helicopter flying to the Aerospace Medical Association in San Francisco and flew American helicopters including the rocket-firing Huey Cobra which is in service in Vietnam. Another of his duties is aircraft accident investigation.

Personal

stamping distance of their cameras. Sandi again forgot her lines and yelled "Stop!" But the rest of the day's filming went smoothly for Sandi. The high spot was a flight in a Sioux helicopter piloted by **Sergeant Tim Smith** of the regiment's air squadron. They discovered both had been pupils at Trowbridge High School—where the boys' half of the school is separated from the girls by a hedge!

MARSHAL AID

The church service at which he was to have been inspecting officer was cancelled because of rain. But **Field-Marshal The Viscount Montgomery of Alamein** stayed on to attend a service of dedication of new windows in the Chapel of Remembrance at the Royal Military Academy. Lord Montgomery, who is 82, had special protection from the weather (above) as he left the church.

GUNNER GOODBYE

He was the only Victoria Cross officer still serving in the British Army. **Colonel Pat Porteous,** 52, spent the last hours of his 33 years' service among young soldiers who are just beginning their careers in his regiment, the Royal Artillery. The occasion was a passing-out parade (left) of 17 Training Regiment at Woolwich. It was an appropriate location because Colonel Porteous began his own career as an officer cadet in Woolwich at the former Royal Military Academy there. He won his VC during the Dieppe Raid in 1942 when a 24-year-old commando major. After bayoneting a German who had shot him through the hand, Colonel Porteous braved withering fire to join a leaderless detachment. He led it in a bayonet charge which overran a German position. He was badly wounded a second time, in the thigh, but carried on until the last of the heavy coast guns had been destroyed. Then he collapsed from loss of blood. Colonel Porteous hopes to get a civilian managerial job. The only other British Army VC now still serving is a Gurkha corporal.

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BOOKS

SURVIVORS' STORY

"Mutiny for the Cause" (*Sam Pollock*)

"Upon my honour, Wallace, I never witnessed a more gallant charge than that just made by your regiment." Thus the great Duke of Wellington to the colonel of The Connaught Rangers (88th Foot) at Busaco in 1810.

One hundred and ten years later, after further gallant service in the Indian Mutiny, Crimea, South African War and World War One, elements of two companies of the regiment mutinied in India. This tragic story is recalled by Mr Pollock, an Ulsterman who served in The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers then became schoolmaster, civil servant, BBC talks producer and finally a freelance.

The facts, briefly, are that elements of The Connaught Rangers, stationed at Jullundur and Solon in the Punjab, became disaffected through the infiltration of Sinn Feiners. They refused to do duty because of alleged wrongs inflicted on Ireland. The barrack area was taken over at Jullundur without violence. But at Solon the mutineers, having initially given up their arms, attempted to storm the armoury to recover them. They were fired on by their own comrades, two were killed and one wounded. Fourteen were sentenced to death, the remainder to various terms of penal servitude. But only one man was executed, the other sentences being commuted to penal servitude for life, and all were released on formation of the Irish Free State.

Mr Pollock's attitude is that they were more sinned against than sinning, that they were morally justified as Irishmen in making a protest and that they behaved very well "like real soldiers" while defying their officers and senior non-commissioned officers. He uses such phrases as "the faithful 28" and "*élite* of the mutineers" and regards most of the officers as bad or stupid or both.

The author bases his opinions and presumptions on interviews with the self-interested survivors 50 years later. No other sources appear to have been consulted. There are also many inaccuracies—the normal infantry pace is 120 to the minute and not 90; ten to a bell tent was normal and does not constitute unspeakable suffering.

This is not reasoned and objective military history.

Leo Cooper, 25*s* **RHL**

ROYAL FLYING CORPS

"Open Cockpit" (*A G Low*)

"The young aviator lay dying,
And as in the wreckage he lay,
The mechanics all gathered
around him
To carry the fragments away."

Such a chorus could have been heard in almost any Royal Flying Corps mess in France in World War One as the young fliers made their nightly, mock-heroic rejection of fear. There certainly must have been fear in their primitive wooden aircraft braced with wire and lacking heating, oxygen, retractable undercarriages, brakes, engine starters, radios and even parachutes. Yet, like medieval knights in the days of chivalry, they went forth daily to seek individual combat for a cause which they held to be just.

The author (later an air vice-marshal), after a short spell of quite inadequate instruction, was posted to 46 Squadron near Armentières where his experiences were typical of so many others—dawn patrols, ground-strafing enemy trenches, dog-fights, using a hammer to clear gun stoppages, and flying Sopwith Pups and Camels.

The Germans, always gallant opponents, technically had the advantage in the early stages of the war with their superior machines and propaganda exploitation of such heroes as Richthofen, Voss and Allmenröder. The British stupidly

ignored their aces. Most of us have heard of Bishop, Ball and McCudden but how many realise that Beauchamp, Proctor and McLaren downed 54 of the enemy and that Little had 47 and Fullard and McElroy 46 each to their credit?

There are no heroics in this book and its realistic style, with many fine plates, make it a thoroughly readable volume.

Jarrolds, 35*s* **AWH**

FOR BADGE BUFFS

"The Concise Lineages of the Canadian Army, 1855 to Date" (*Charles H Stewart*)

This looseleaf book will come as a most welcome addition to the badge collector's library which has long lacked a quick and easy reference on Canadian military matters. Some 150 badges are illustrated in an inset of five foolscap pages and there are potted histories of the corps and regiments of the Canadian Army, in most cases with a badge illustration and note on uniform colours and mottoes.

An introduction briefly traces the history of Canadian military development from the middle of the 17th century to the militia act of 1855 and a series of tables gives the strength and deployment of the active militia in 1885. Another section lists Canadian corps and regiments with their British affiliations and there is a regimental list of the now almost forgotten Sedentary Militia which came into being after the war of 1812.

This militia earned its name because it fell into a state of lethargy. Officers were appointed yearly but never held any parades of their units which, if nothing else, bore such picturesque names as the regiments of Kamouraska, Montmorency and St Hyacinthe.

Project A Publication, Charles H Stewart, 204-251 *Sackville Street, Toronto* 246, *Ontario, Canada*, $7.50, *or from Spink and Sons, London* **JFPJ**

"STEADY UNDER FIRE"

"The American Fighting Man" (*Victor Hicken*)

Though it lacks organisation, one can dip anywhere in this book and find fascinating and intriguing details of the American soldier and sailor over the centuries.

Taking the American soldier from the Revolutionary War in which 400,000 men fought—a fifth of them negroes—Mr Hicken traces his development through the Civil War, the two world wars and Korea to the present Vietnam conflict. He pulls no punches. Devoting one chapter to observations of allied officers on the qualities of American troops, he shows that in both world wars and in Korea, British officers had low opinions of the GI.

In 1942 several British general officers stated, after viewing American troops stationed in the United Kingdom, that putting "such troops against continental troops would be murder." Churchill, ever cognisant of American public opinion, replied, "They are wonderful material and will learn very quickly." In the end Field-Marshal Montgomery, no great fan of American fighting ability, had to admit: "The American is a brave fighting man, steady under fire and he has that tenacity in battle which stamps the first-class soldier."

An interesting aspect of the American Service is that racial minorities have always fought side by side with whites. Mr Hicken does a service to his country, plagued so much by racial discord, by pointing this out once again. He tells of the much-maligned American Indian fighting on every front in which US troops were engaged (even with the RAF in the famous Eagle Squadron) and winning two Congressional Medals of Honour. Nor does he forget the negro's valuable contribution to American fighting prestige from the 18th century to the 1960s in Vietnam.

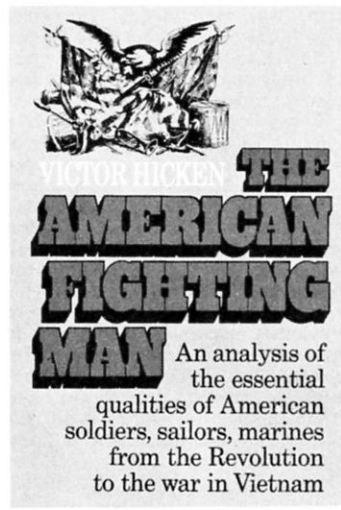
All in all an immensely readable book that admirably fulfils the author's intention "to write a tribute—simple, direct and truthful."

Collier-Macmillan, 84*s* **CW**

"RUBBED UP VERY FINE"

"Dress Regulations for the Army, 1900"

This first of a series of reprints of War Office volumes governing British Army dress regulations refers specifically to officers of the Regular Army and Militia. Its original purpose is crystallised in paragraph 32 which draws the attention of officers to sealed patterns of dress and saddlery at the War Office and asks them to make sure their uniforms conform to these patterns.


VICTOR HICKEN
THE AMERICAN FIGHTING MAN
An analysis of the essential qualities of American soldiers, sailors, marines from the Revolution to the war in Vietnam

Well indexed and an invaluable source of reference, this book has an informative introduction by Mr W Y Carman, deputy director of the National Army Museum. There are 79 pages of illustrations covering badges, headdresses, trimmings for cocked hats, tunics, cavalry patrol jackets, frock coats and greatcoats, mess dress, shoulder cords, swords and 77 different designs of rank and regimental lace.

An appendix on the care and preservation of uniform has some useful tips including a recipe for brightening up tarnished gold lace with a mixture of cream and tartar and dry bread "rubbed up very fine" to be applied lightly in a dry state with clean soft brush.

Arms & Armour Press, 60*s* **JFPJ**

ANGLO-SIKH WARS

"Six Battles for India" (*George Bruce*)

The Sikh wars of 1845-46 and 1848-49 were the bloodiest the British had to fight in India. As a result of the victories the Punjab was settled to become fertile and prosperous and the North-West Frontier secured against the emergent Russian ambitions through Afghanistan.

For 36 years an uneasy peace had existed between the British and the great Sikh ruler Ranjit Singh. After Ranjit's death in 1839 were six years of murder and bloodshed while his descendants intrigued and fought for paramountcy.

At the beginning of this period of chaos the British had undertaken the disastrous Afghan campaign which culminated in total defeat and annihilation of the force in the retreat from Kabul. This overwhelming disaster destroyed the myth of British invincibility in India and as a result the Khalsa (the Sikh army) seized power and began to prepare for war.

The Sikh army crossed the River Sutlej, one of the five great rivers of the Punjab and also the treaty line between the two forces, and the scene was set. At the village of Moodkee, Sir Hugh Gough, the British commander-in-chief, won a small but somewhat unconvincing victory. The Khalsa was rapidly reinforced and Ferozeshah followed. Here the fate of British India hung in the balance for two days and only treason by some Sikh leaders saved

Gough from a crushing defeat. Two further battles, Aliwal and Sobraon, were won and peace confirmed by the Treaty of Lahore. One of its terms was surrender of the great Koh-I-Noor diamond to Queen Victoria and another, more far-reaching, that Kashmir be sold as a separate independent state.

The second war started with a rising in Multan and the murder of two Englishmen. Again it took three battles to subdue the warrior Sikhs. Gough, under threat of dismissal, won the final round at Gujerat whereupon the governor-general, Dalhousie, annexed the whole of the Punjab as a British possession.

Mr Bruce has used a lot of previously unpublished material to produce an exciting and useful narrative which faithfully and stirringly describes the battles and draws fascinating portraits of the leading personalities on both sides. The book is illustrated and has adequate sketch maps. An index, bibliography and a note on wounds are also provided.

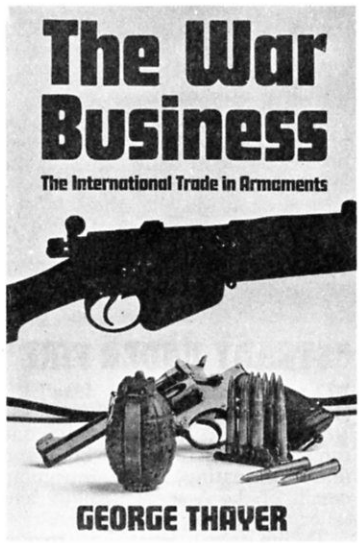
Arthur Barker, 45*s* **RHL**

ARMS TRADE

"*The War Business*" (*George Thayer*)

This unusual book deals with the international arms trade and, as the author puts it, "how and why the post-World War II international arms trade works and to what extent the presence or acquisition of arms encourages the outbreak or the continuation of hostilities."

As the author himself admits, the nature of the arms trade militates



against the full story ever being told, yet he has drawn from an impressive range of sources.

Mr Thayer's survey shows that many of the great arms manufacturers of the past are no longer in business or sell exclusively to their own government. He concludes that trade in arms encourages "arms races and transforms political conflicts into war. It has happened twice in the Middle East within the last 14 years and the world is now witnessing a third arms race in the area that will inevitably culminate in yet another round of violent conflict."

This is an important, valuable book which can be recommended to any thoughtful Serviceman who sees his job as not only preparing for war but also attempting to ensure that war will not take place in the first instance. The understanding of the mechanics of that confrontation that so often leads up to war and the part that international arms sales play in preparing for that confrontation must be part of a soldier's mental equipment.

Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 50*s* **CW**

TOO CONSERVATIVE

"*The Battle for North Africa*" (*John Strawson*)

Brigadier John Strawson, who as a young officer served in the Middle East with the 4th Hussars, realises that most of this ground has already been covered very thoroughly and in his first chapter he tries to justify yet another book on the subject.

In the end there is very little one can say about the war in North Africa that is new. There is none of the controversy attached to El Alamein that there is to, say, Arnhem or the Battle of the Bulge. The campaign ended with the professional reputations of Montgomery and Rommel permanently established, in a satisfactory allied victory and in a springboard for the "soft underbelly of Europe."

The only question an impartial observer might ask is why did it all take so long? Brigadier Strawson throws some new light on this subject, accepting Rommel's thesis that the reason for British slowness was the rejection of mechanised warfare before the war and a poor state of training. He quotes Rommel as saying "Probably our most fundamental and important advantage over the enemy in North Africa was that when my army arrived in Africa in 1941, it was in a better position to benefit from further training on modern lines than were the British. My officers, particularly the younger commanders and general staff officers, were up to date in their thinking and not hampered by the conservatism of the British officer."

Here Brigadier Strawson makes his most important point about the campaign. Soldiers are generally conservative by nature and British soldiers a little more conservative than most. No one expects the next war to be like the last one yet training is often based on the lessons of the last campaign because there are no others available. But a commander should be prepared to throw those lessons overboard immediately if latest theory or practice tells him they will probably not be applicable in any new conflict. In North Africa the average British commander was simply not prepared to do that.

Brigadier Strawson shows how the nature of the conflict developed slowly over the long three years of desert warfare and examines the varying strategic considerations and tactics until finally the British came up with a new formula to beat the Germans. His account is solid, well-documented and accurate and can be warmly recommended to the specialist reader.

Batsford, 45*s* **CW**

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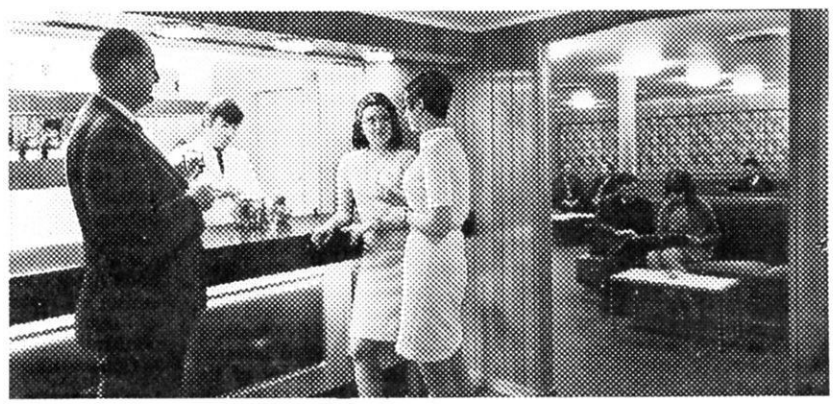

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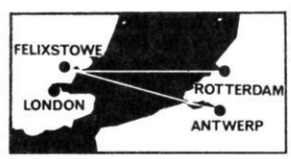

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BEYOND THE PALE

"*Bandits*" (*J Hobsbawn*)

Theme of this unusual book, by the reader in history at Birbeck College, is the "social bandit" whose aim is to rob the rich for the betterment of the poor. The author deals with this type of bandit in countries from Peru to India and tries to explain what type of person took up this role and why. Indian *dacoits*, Peruvian *bandoleros*, Balkan *haiduks* are all examined and their activities compared with the legend or public image that grew up around them.

According to Mr Hobsbawn the typical bandit's social situation is one of ambiguity. Although a rebel and outsider as a poor man who has refused to accept poverty, he is at the same time drawn into the ranks of the rich. He writes: "The more successful he is as a bandit the more he is both a representative and champion of the poor and a part of the system of the rich."

It is an interesting and novel thesis but the general reader is perhaps more concerned with human details. This is a well-illustrated, engaging little book on a previously neglected subject.

Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 30*s* **CW**

OFFICIAL HISTORY

"*The War Against Japan: Volume V: The Surrender of Japan*" (*Major-General S Woodburn Kirby, Brigadier M R Roberts, Colonel G T Wards, Air Vice-Marshal N L Desoer; edited by Sir James Butler*)

This final volume of the official history of the war against Japan contains many a lesson. One is that though war in the Far East came about mainly because of Japanese aggression in the decade from 1931, Britain and the United States cannot be held blameless since their weakness in the period after World War One not only made Japanese aggression likely but forced them from 1931 onwards to adopt a policy of appeasement towards Japan.

By 1934 the British armed forces had been reduced to a level which rendered them quite unable to defend the British Empire. The stabilising and deterrent effect of the presence in various parts of the world of strong British forces was lost. Japan felt free to cast covetous eyes on Indo-China, Siam, Malaya and the Netherlands East Indies.

With their much-vaunted Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere as their goal, the Japanese set themselves the task of driving the Western colonial powers from Asia. Once drawn in, the Americans coupled the defeat of Japan with the establishment of a strong, democratically progressive Chinese state. It is significant that defeated Japan's aim was ultimately achieved while America's hopes for China were irretrievably dashed, mainly through Chiang Kai-shek's selfish refusal to co-operate.

On Britain's experience in this period, the authors make the thought-provoking point that British forces returned to her former colonies as victorious liberators. This enabled Britain to relinquish sovereignty as an act of grace and not of duress.

This fifth volume covers the months from the capture of Rangoon in May 1945, and the simultaneous assault on Okinawa, to November 1946 when South-East Asia Command was disbanded.

The authors discuss at length the decision to use the atomic bomb, showing how the suicidal defence of Okinawa clearly indicated how costly invasion would be with fearful loss of life on both sides and the total destruction of Japan. The choice of complete local destruction of selected targets still seems completely justifiable. And though the atomic bombs killed 78,150 and 23,573 persons in Hiroshima and Nagasaki respectively, 84,000 people were killed in a big "conventional" fire raid in which B-29s bombed a small area of Tokyo.

Volume V fully maintains the high standard of its predecessors. It is almost impossible to fault the authors, whose arguments are invariably well-reasoned and acceptable.

HMSO, 126*s* **JCW**

IN BRIEF

"*Clash by Night*" (*Brigadier Derek Mills-Roberts*)

A Liverpool solicitor and member of the Irish Guards supplementary reserve of officers goes to war in 1939—and by 1945 is a brigadier with a string of decorations for bravery. A man with a story to tell. His sub-title, "A Commando Chronicle," marks him firmly as a man of action.

With 4 Commando he helps to silence the Varengeville battery during the Dieppe raid; in North Africa with 250 men of 6 Commando he halts an enemy attack by three parachute battalions with supporting tanks. After taking part in the D-Day landings he succeeds the wounded Lord Lovat in command of 1 Commando Brigade and leads it through France, Holland and Germany across the Maas, Rhine, Weser, Aller and Elbe.

Now in its third edition and one of the best books of personal experience to come out of World War Two.

William Kimber, 12*s* 6*d*

"*Across the Top of the World*" (*Walley Herbert*)

On 29 May 1968, after 15 months of stern endeavour, Wally Herbert and his three companions completed the longest polar journey ever undertaken. They covered some 3600 miles with dog-drawn sledges across the moving polar ice from Point Barrow in Alaska via the North Pole to Spitzbergen.

The financial worries, the training trip to Greenland and details of the main journey are well described by Mr Herbert. The book is well illustrated but there is no index and, worse still, no appendices listing information on food and equipment, medical supplies, scientific tasks and sponsors etc though some of this information appears in the text. Probably a deadline had to be met.

Longmans, 36*s*

"*Japanese Arms and Armour*" (*introduced by H Russell Robinson*)

This beautifully produced volume is sumptuously illustrated with 24 superb colour plates and 112 black-and-white plates supplemented by 43 line illustrations of details and parts of equipment drawn by Mr Robinson of the Tower of London. Mr Robinson has also written a scholarly introduction covering the protohistoric period up to 1867.

The main part of the work is devoted to armour but there is a fascinating section on the sword which was "the soul of the samurai." The forging of the blade was a religious act. The swordsmith, wearing special clothing, eating only vegetables and living a celibate life, was also required to purify his workshop during the long process. Finally the blade was "proved" for cutting power on the live bodies of convicted criminals. Details of this were sometimes inscribed on the blade. A first-rate book for the intermediate student and beginner.

Arms & Armour Press, 90*s*

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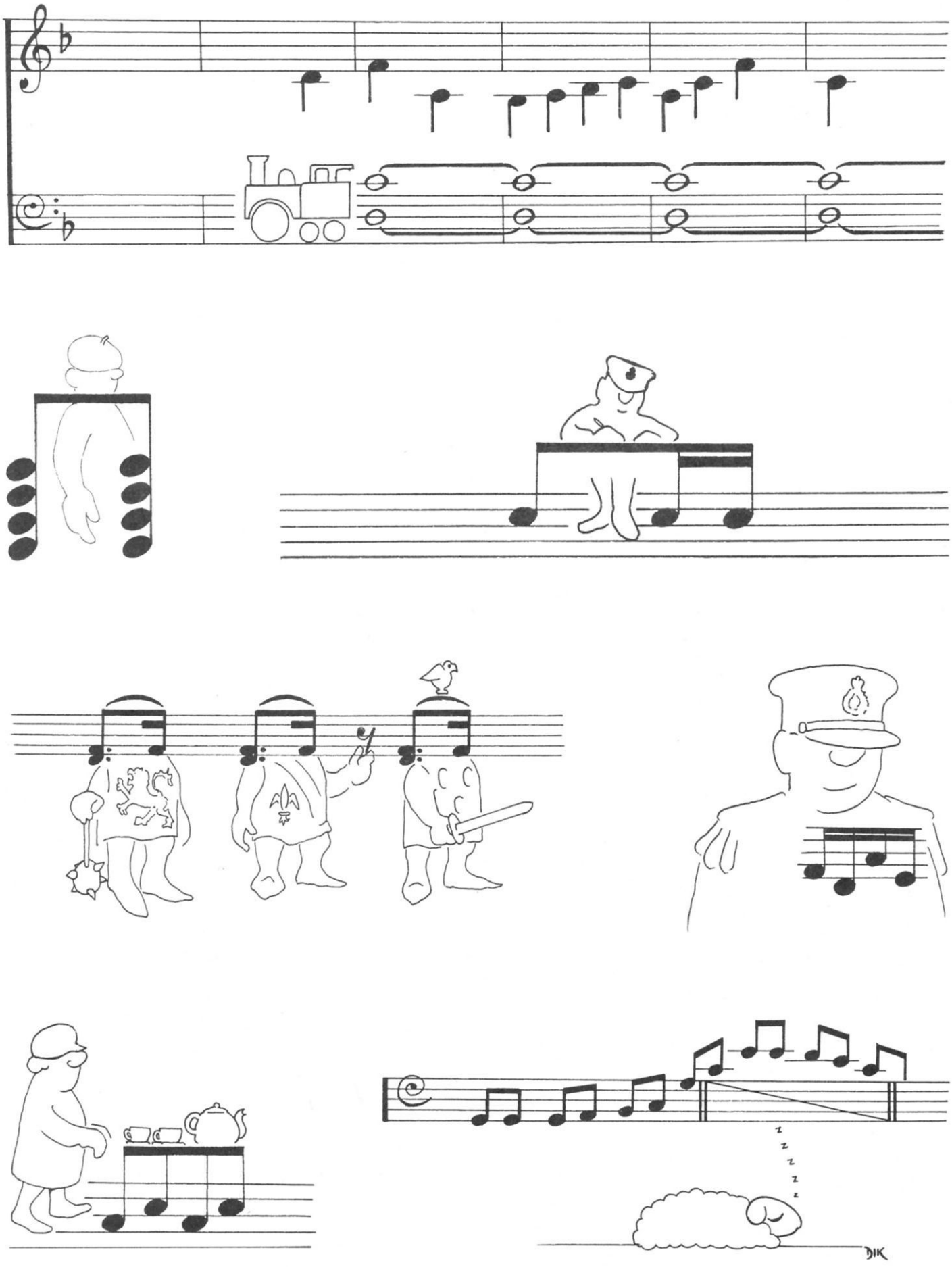


Farewell to TERENDAK

Above: Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Currie and Major Yee Kee Ming sign the handover documents. Below: Spending a weekend on the idyllic beach.

WITH four signatures on two documents a corner of the Commonwealth slipped into history. Such was the simple unceremonious handover of the 4750 acres of Terendak Camp, where bougainvillea blooms by the palm trees and Brits, Diggers and Kiwis have lived and trained side by side for 14 years.

Terendak Camp, on Malaysia's west coast near Malacca and headquarters of the 28th Commonwealth Brigade, now becomes the property of the Malaysian Armed Forces.

The final documents were signed by Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Currie, The Royal Scots, who was president of the British handover board, and Major Yee Kee Ming, his Malaysian counterpart.

Colonel Currie was posted to Terendak as deputy garrison commander when the Commonwealth Brigade was at full strength. When he took over command last December it was down to 1800. On the morning of the final handover the "strength" was 16. The only soldier to stay behind afterwards was Captain Roy Innocent, Royal Pioneer Corps, who had just three weeks' work to do, settling the accounts of redundant local civilian employees.

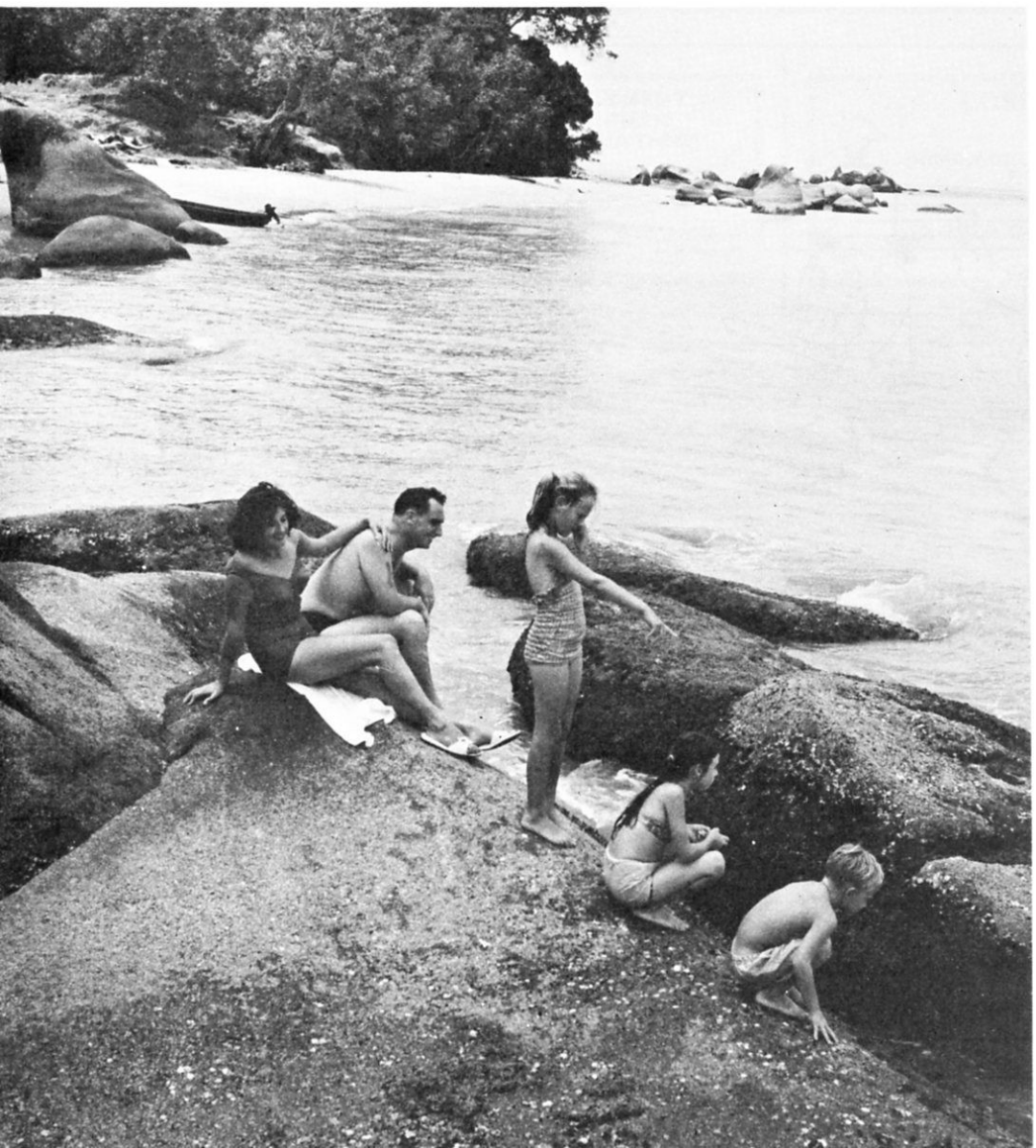
A few Ministry of Public Buildings and Works employees will stay on to maintain the cemetery in which rest those British, Australian and New Zealand Servicemen, and members of their families, for whom Terendak was the last home.

Terendak, 14 miles north of Malacca, was built between 1957 and 1964 at a cost of about £8 million, shared by the British, Australian and New Zealand governments. It was designed to accommodate a full infantry brigade group less armour. It is a mini city complete with shopping centre, schools, churches, cinema, sports ground, social clubs, a swimming pool and married quarters. The population, including civilian employees, was about 12,000. It cost about £12 million a year to keep the Commonwealth Brigade there (the grass-cutting bill alone was £19,000). Of the total £6½ million went to the Malaysian economy.

When General Sir Francis Festing laid the foundation stone he described the camp as "a lasting symbol of the Commonwealth armed forces that fought in Malaya and continue to defend it." Without ceremony another stone has been placed above the original one. It simply states that the camp was handed over by "28 Commonwealth Infantry Brigade to 1 Malaysian Infantry Brigade on 28th March 1970."

Malaysian units began moving in last September. Since then sarongs and songkoks have been replacing western suits and summer frocks. The roads bustled with the sage-green vehicles of the Malaysian forces and steel-helmeted soldiers took over the main gate from Army Department police.

One of the last acts of the Commonwealth Brigade was to black out the road signs with nostalgic names like "Waiouru Road," "Wollongong Close," "Perth Avenue," and "Cornwall Road." The new ones will be in Malay.



Above: Neat rows of buildings under an azure sky. An aerial view of Terendak Camp in 1963.

Top of page: They have a mixture of accents from Cockney to *Strine* but the staff is all British. All learn Commonwealth history and geography.

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"Following the Guns with the RA Band (1716-1815)" (Band of The Royal Regiment of Artillery) (Director of Music: Captain Robert Quinn) (commentary narrated by Major-General B P Hughes) (Golden Guinea Stereo GSGL 10446).

Here is another musical history of a famous regiment which has its commentary spoken either between the musical items or over the music. The latter has persuaded the conductor to repeat some items in full after the narration has ended, and this method becomes rather irksome, especially as a complete break is made before each repetition. As with the question of recording tattoos at a live performance or in a studio with simulated effects, there is also the problem of recording regimental (musical) histories. Should the music be left to speak for itself, with sleeve notes to guide the uninitiated, or should the narrative accompany the music?

Both methods succeed but only one in my opinion (and that of dozens of regiments which have recorded their histories in music) stands up to the repeated listening for which a record is purchased. Except of course for gunners, and they are marvellously served with a hundred years of gallant exploits commemorated in some fine marches.

After the "Royal Artillery Fanfare," "Regimental Call" and "Slow March" the narrator gives the historical background for the inclusion of the "Charge," "Austrian Hymn," "Radetsky March," "Minden Rose" march and "Alouette." Side one ends with a fine realisation of an old march, "Trayne of Artillery," the very title of which conjures up more of the past than all the words.

Side two, for some reason, begins with the "Thunder and Lightning Polka" and continues more logically with "Turkish Artillery March," excerpts from Lancome's "La Feria" suite and the ubiquitous "1812 Overture." The finale comprises "Last Post," "Royal Artillery General Salute" and "British Grenadiers."

As most of the music was unwritten in the century under review I see no reason for the exclusion of the "Trot and Gallop" and most of all of "Screw Guns" which should have been belted out in all its bawdy glory. But all in all the album is a great tribute from their famous band to many generations of gunners. **RB**

"The World of Scotland" (Decca SPA 41).

For anyone who wants all his Scottish music on the one disc this is certainly the one to buy. Pipe bands, Scottish folk songs, country dance bands, a Gaelic song—only the clarsach and solo bagpipe are missing. The record has extracts from four famous pipe bands—two military and two civilian. If I am not mistaken the pipe band of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders is that of the now defunct 277 Field Regiment (A & SH) RA TA which, with the Edinburgh Police and Shotts and Dykehead pipe bands are former world champions; the other is that of 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.

This is far from being a record of serious music but one that can be used for background or for listening to the individual items. Callum Kennedy is particularly pleasing with "Morag of Dunvegan," and Robin Hall and Jimmie MacGregor with the "Mingulay Boat Song." In Bobby MacLeod's medley of Scots tunes (Pipers' medley: "Wi' a Hundred Pipers," "Cock o' the North," "John Grumble," "I Loe Nae a Laddie," "We're No' Awa' Tae Bide Awa'") his inborn piper's rhythm and technique bring the tunes alive. Jack Sinclair and Alasdair Downie, with their contrasting styles of Scottish country dance music, really make their selections swing.

At 19s 11d this record is a real bargain, with excellent quality recording and well-balanced selections. **JM**

Also on this LP: "Scotland the Brave," "The Rowan Tree" (Edinburgh City Police Pipe Band); "The Stoutest Man in the Forty-Twa," "Nicky Tams" (Robin Hall and Jimmie MacGregor); "Masons Apron" (Alasdair Downie); "Badge of Scotland" (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders); "The Skyline of Skye," "Bratach Bana" (Callum Kennedy); "The Road to the Isles" (Glendaruel Highlanders); "The Old Rustic Bridge by the Mill" (1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders); Scottish waltz medley—"Ho-Ree, Ho-Ro," "My Little Wee Girl," "For the Sake of Somebody," "The Northern Lights of Aberdeen" (Jack Sinclair and his Scottish Dance Orchestra); Medley—"Lochanside," "Highland Brigade at Magersfontein" (Shotts and Dykehead Caledonia Pipe Band).

"Massed Band Spectacular" Vol Two —Colchester Military Tattoo (Drum Major MCN 1).

I have already reviewed the 1968 Colchester Tattoo (February SOLDIER) and find I have no reason to change my opinions, as expressed there, after hearing this 1969 performance. The faults remain the same—too much drumming and little or no musical balance—for of course Colchester believes in recording its tattoo at a live show.

With the exception of a few words of command and bursts of applause to add atmosphere, the LP is a mere sequence of marches which might just as well have been recorded static or in a studio. However, if you like your marches served with a few trimmings (and the thumping of the drums) then here for your delight are "Staffordshire Knot," "The Vanished Army," "Semper Fidelis," "Grenadiers Slow March," "Victory Beating," "The Mad Major" (massed bands and corps of drums of The Queen's Division); "The Voice of the Guns," "Preobajensky March," "(I Love You and) Don't You Forget It," "Jellalabad" (massed bands and corps of drums of 19 Infantry Brigade); "Army of the Nile," "Wellington March," "Salute the Prince of Wales" (very effective), "Washington Grays" and "The Great Little Army" (full massed bands).

Tattoo directors (and musical directors) might remember that massed bandsmen do not need a bass drum beat on every foot; they are playing a rhythmic tune and can keep step without any drums. Different, of course, if the band is heading a column of troops. **RB**

Above: The thudding of hooves on greensward echoes against a modern barrack block. It is a sound to be heard no more. This was H Squadron's last parade.

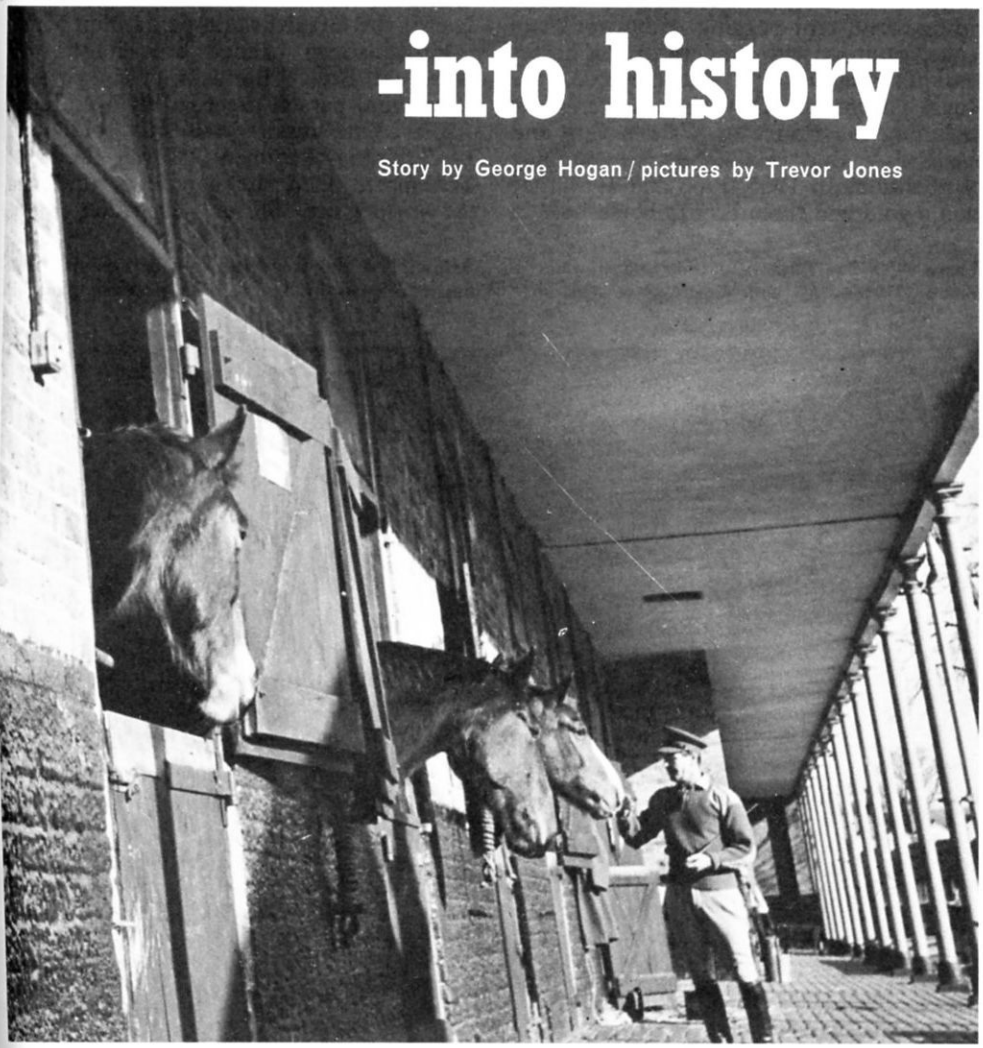
"Walk march!" -into history

Story by George Hogan / pictures by Trevor Jones

THE last of the transport horses have now left the Army and the mechanisation which began in the 1920s seems at last to have been completed although some horses are retained for ceremonial duties with the Household Cavalry, the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, and for mounted tasks in the Corps of Royal Military Police.

But the Royal Corps of Transport, which uses all kinds of road and cross-country vehicles, ships, aircraft and hovercraft and in the past has loaded donkeys, mules, ponies, camels and buffalos, has now handed over the last of its horses at the disbandment parade of H Squadron at Buller Barracks, Aldershot.

Below: Farewell to old friends. The stables have been here at Beaumont Barracks, Aldershot, since the days of the Crimea.

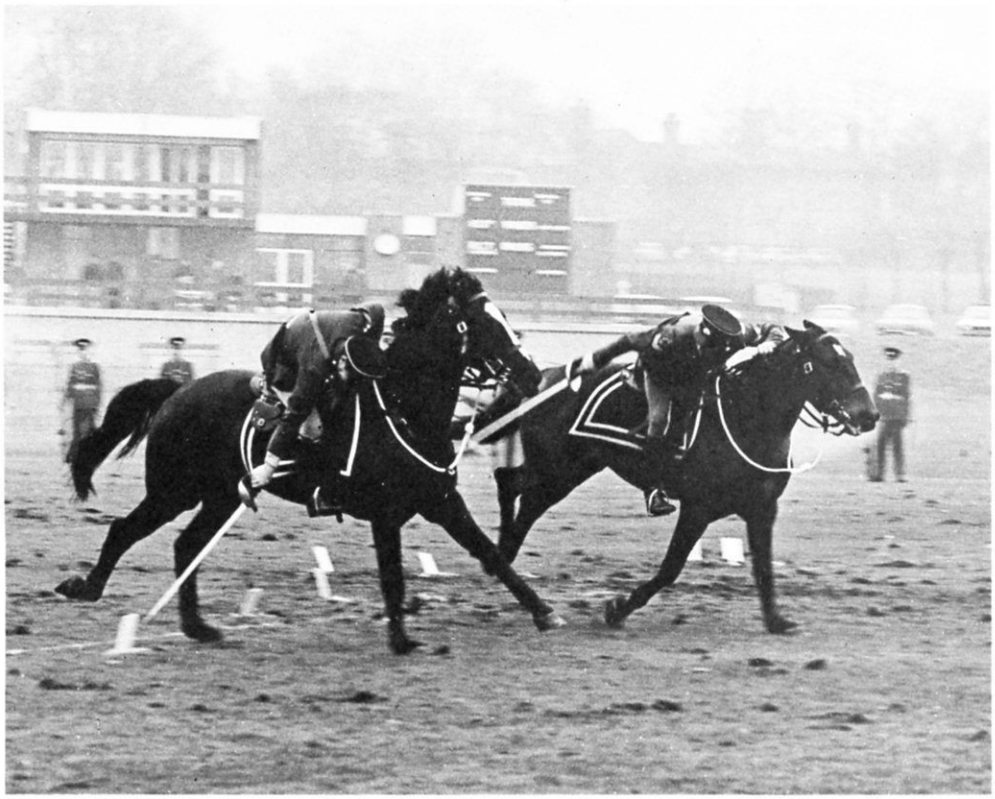


The Corps retains in Hong Kong 414 Pack Troop, equipped with pack mules which have long been giving good service in the New Territories.

There was much controversy when mechanisation of the cavalry was ordered after World War One. The 12th Lancers were informed in February 1928 and received their first armoured car in Egypt in January 1929. The 17th/21st Lancers converted in January 1938 in India but 1st The Royal Dragoons and The Royal Scots Greys were still operating usefully with horses in Palestine in 1940.

The Royal Corps of Transport (earlier as the Royal Army Service Corps) has always been prepared to use any means available to get ammunition, equipment and food to the troops. H Squadron, which held on doggedly to its pack and draught horses until March this year, was the training unit of the corps and held courses of instruction in stable management, horsemastership and pack and draught horse management for personnel of the corps and of other arms including The Parachute Regiment, Special Air Service Regiment and Royal Marines. It also held equitation courses for cavalry regiments.

The squadron, at various times named Y Depot Company, AT Company and HTT Company, moved to Aldershot from Woolwich in 1929 but could trace its lineage back to the Royal Waggon Train formed in 1794. It was responsible for training men for pack and transport units all over the world and averaged 300 annually to 1964, since when there had been a gradual reduction. It also ran a delivery service in Aldershot garrison with wagons, limbers and tipper carts carrying



fuel and rations between depots and to married quarters.

The squadron expanded during World War Two and provided cadres for the formation of several pack companies in Scotland in readiness for operations overseas. It fed units in the Middle East, Kenya and the Far East and by the end of the war large companies were also operating in Italy, Austria and Germany. Pack transport played an important part with Chindit long-range penetration groups in Burma.

Horses, mules and other animals available were used on lines of communication from ship and railhead and right up to the front line. Ammunition, food, clothing, bedding, stores and guns were carried on wagons or as packs. Hot meals were taken into the line in insulated containers and wounded men brought out in litters on the sides of animals.

Men of H Squadron have always been keenly competitive, taking part in horse shows and hunter trials all over the south of England.

Their versatility included musical activity riding, drill, tent-pegging with sword and lance, vaulting with tandem-driven horses and jumping through fire hoops. At the Royal Tournament they won many trophies including the Prince of Wales's Cup and the King's Cup in the Services jumping competition. In 1965, 1966 and 1967 they won a gold and three bronze horseshoes in the Daily Mail Golden Horseshoe competition which attracted top equestrians from all over Britain.

During the past ten years H Squadron was closely associated with the Army pentathlon teams, helping to prepare the course at Tweseldown and to train competitors in riding. The squadron commander, Major Monty Mortimer, is manager of the Great Britain pentathlon team.

H Squadron handed over its last 22 horses at Buller Barracks at a symbolic ceremonial parade preceded by a mounted display. One hundred and fifty soldiers of 12 Training Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, lined the parade ground and the inspecting officer, Brigadier Boris

Above left: The flash of sabres and thunder of hooves. Display of "tent-pegging" at Aldershot.

Below: Not the wooden horse of escapist fame but one used by trainees to practise packing.

BACK COVER

Training in pack transport duties at Aldershot. These horses of H Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, could also be ridden or used as draught animals. They were the last transport horses in the Army.
Picture by Trevor Jones.

Eastwood, Commandant RCT Training Centre, drove up to the saluting dais in a two-horsed wagonette.

He spoke of the squadron as "loyal and much loved" and thanked it for "splendid and devoted service since 1794." After the display and ride-past a mounted party from the Royal Army Veterinary Corps, led by Captain Noel Carding, joined the parade and it was a sad moment when Major Mortimer quietly requested: "Captain Carding, I would be grateful if you would lead H Squadron off parade."

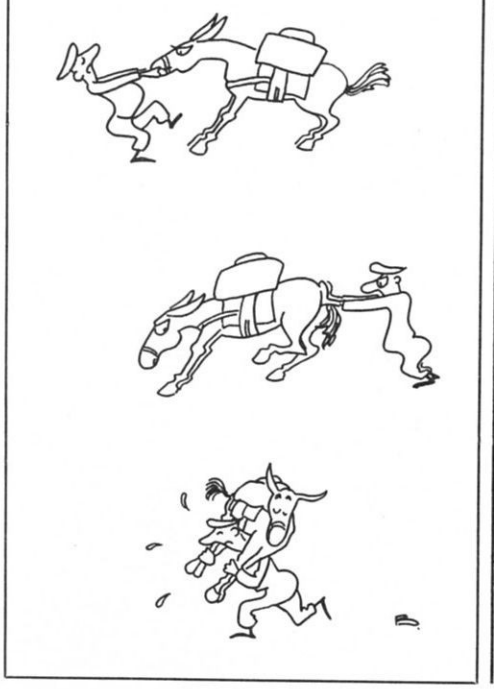
The band of the Royal Engineers (Aldershot) played "Auld Lang Syne" and the Army's last transport horses moved off to the RAVC Training Centre at Melton Mowbray from where they will go to other units for ceremonial duties.

At one time horses were common in all units, including infantry. Grooms and drivers were hard-working men who looked after the interests of their charges first. They were dedicated to saddle soap, curry combs and sweet oil. The continuous use of oil was necessary to keep bits, stirrup irons and chains bright.

Iron gave way to stainless steel; now the horses themselves have gone. They have been a long time going, the parting is sad and they will be long remembered. The command "Walk march!" will be heard no more in the Royal Corps of Transport.

Above: Stylish send-off for Brigadier Eastwood. He left in a coach-and-pair after the ceremony.

Below: Riding through puddles in a Surrey wood. Army pentathletes train for 1956 Olympic Games.



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